執事系男子

遠藤海成

MINARI ENDOH

D.GRAY-MAN™

MINARI ENDOH

7

TOKYOPOP®

DAZZLE™

Vol. 7

Minari Endoh

TOKYOPOP®

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Dazzle Volume 7
Created by Minari Endoh

Translation - Yuko Fukami
English Adaptation - Karen S. Ahlstrom
Retouch and Lettering - Star Print Brokers
Production Artist - Michael Paolilli
Graphic Designer - Jose Macasocol, Jr.

Editor - Peter Ahlstrom
Digital Imaging Manager - Chris Buford
Pre-Production Supervisor - Erika Terriquez
Production Manager - Elisabeth Brizzi
Managing Editor - Vy Nguyen
Creative Director - Anne Marie Horne
Editor-in-Chief - Rob Tokar
Publisher - Mike Kiley
President and C.O.O. - John Parker
C.E.O. and Chief Creative Officer - Stuart Levy

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TOKYOPOP Inc.
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

E-mail: info@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

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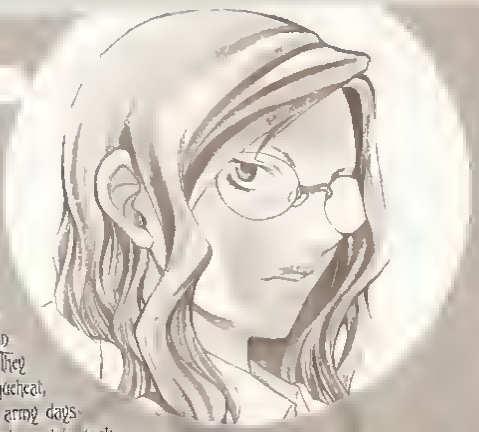
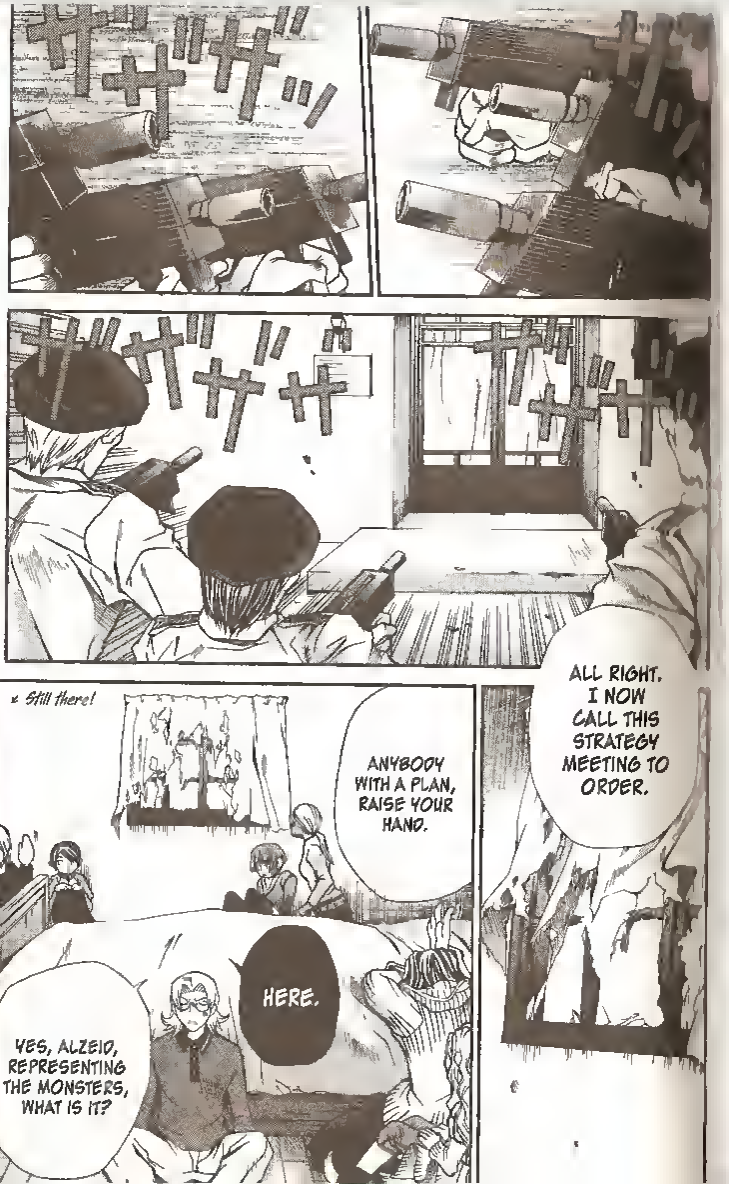
Story So Far...

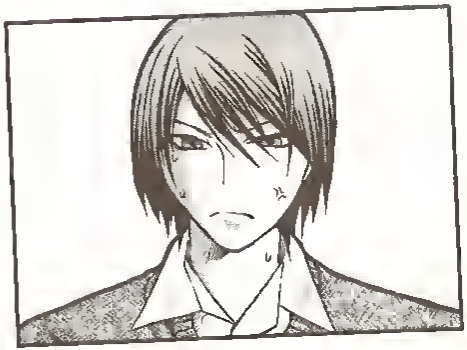


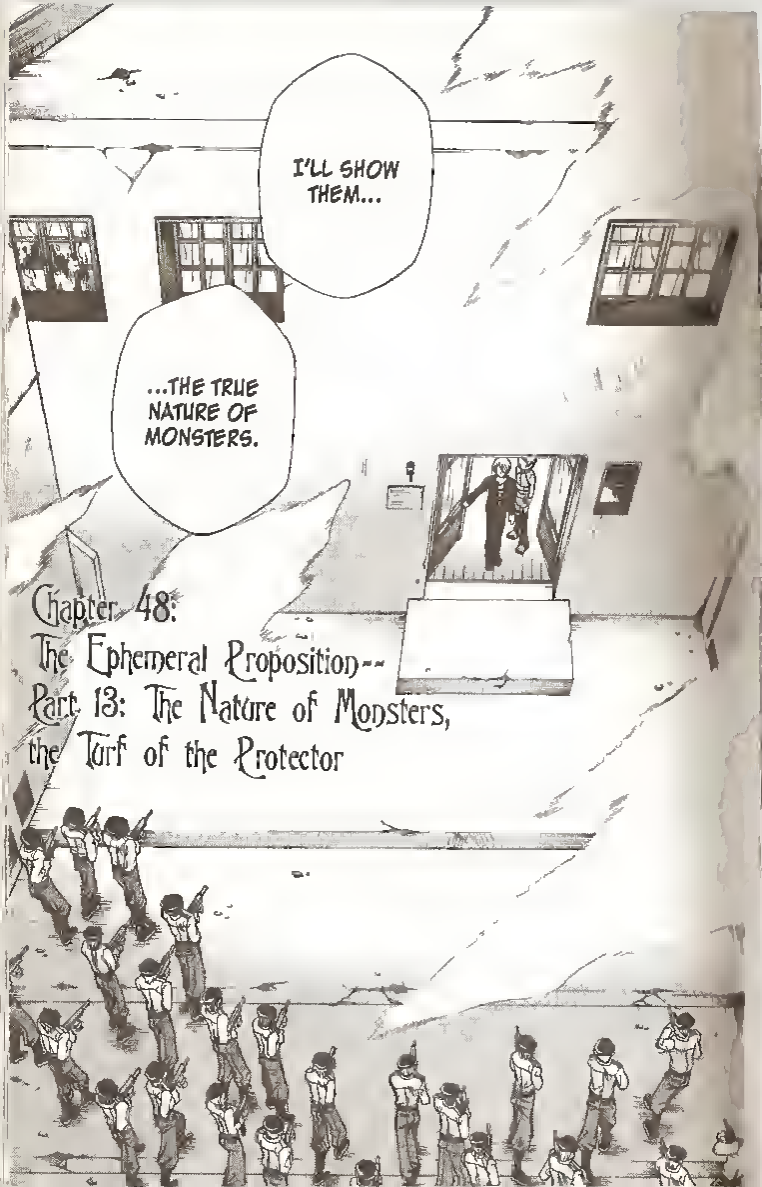
When Rahzel's father suddenly kicked her out of the house to go on a training journey and hone her magical abilities, he didn't expect her to immediately fall in with Alzeid, an albino mage user in search of the woman who killed his father. They were soon joined by Baroqueheat, Alzeid's associate from his army days whose arm turns into a blade and he took quite a liking to Rahzel--much to her dismay. Yet somehow, through multiple trials and adventures, this mismatched trio formed a bond as strong as a family's ties.

But one of Baroqueheat's older brothers, Kiara, has been observing them and pulling strings behind the scenes, accompanied by a nameless little albino boy who Kiara also calls "Alzeid" (the boy tells Rahzel she promised years ago to give him a name, but she doesn't remember this). Also, Baroqueheat and Kiara's older sister Natsame matches the description of the woman Alzeid says killed his father--but she was apparently killed by an older man bearing a striking resemblance to Alzeid. Perhaps for that reason, Baroqueheat's other sister Branowen has exhibited an intense dislike for Alzeid.

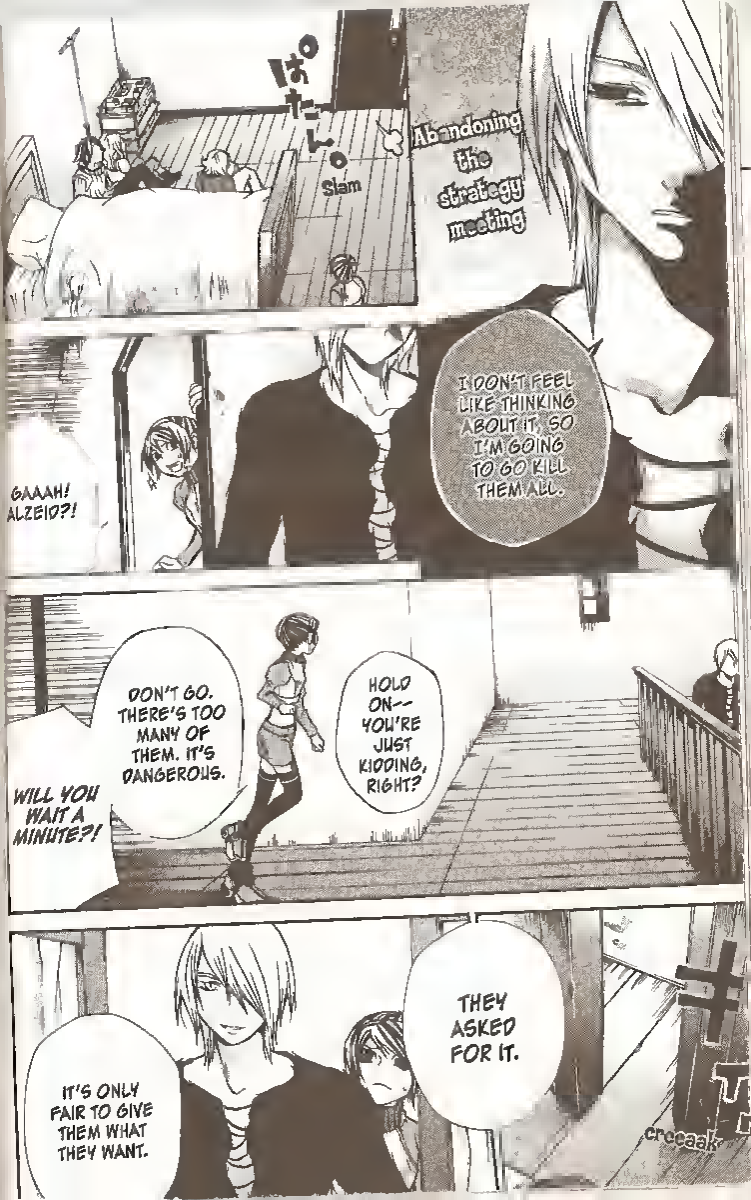
Now, Rahzel and company have traveled to the town of Aeanea, along with Rayborn, a teen whose life Rahzel saved. Kiara's albino companion has been terrorizing the locals, and a pair of assassins hired to hunt him down, Addy and Ashma, attack Alzeid by mistake. Even though Alzeid can usually regenerate from any wound, he falls dangerously ill from the poison Kiara gave the assassins to coat their weapons with. While Rahzel drags him to a clinic, Rayborn stays behind to delay the assassins, though he has an utter lack of magical power or other unusual fighting skill. The creativity and insulting nature of his traps keeps Addy hot on his tail, until he runs afoul of a local mob--who shoot him just because he was seen with Alzeid. The boy monster who Alzeid was mistaken for then shows up. Though he likes the nickname the townspeople have given him--"Silver Demi"--he slaughters them in a display of power. Only Ashma's invisibility trick keeps him and Addy safe, and they bring Rayborn's body to the doctor Rahzel found--Taylor. Baroqueheat fights Kiara to get an antidote for the poison, damaging his hand in the process, and Alzeid recovers--but the clinic has been surrounded by the local militia, who still think Alzeid is the monster...

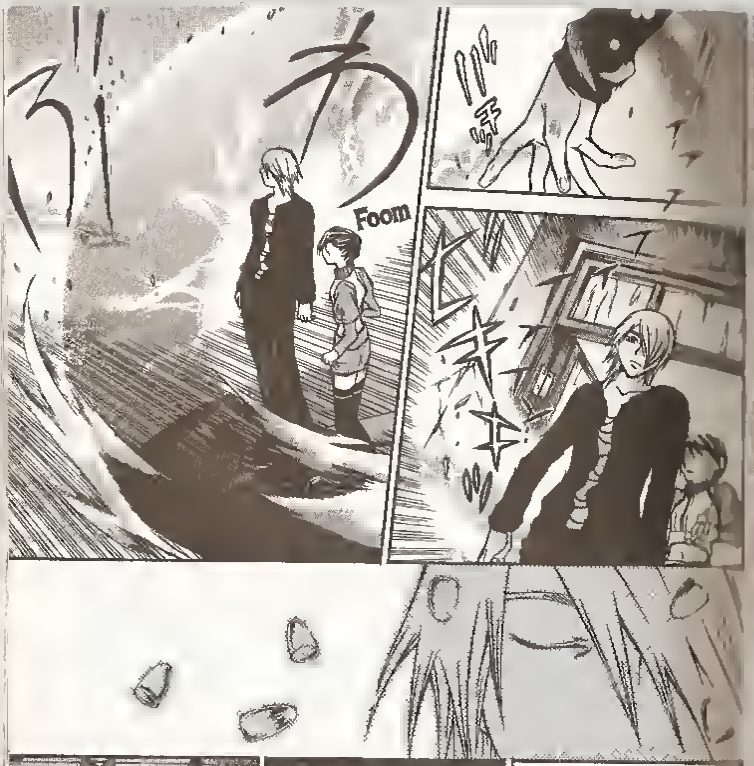

ALL RIGHT. I NOW CALL THIS STRATEGY MEETING TO ORDER.
ANYBODY WITH A PLAN, RAISE YOUR HAND.
Still there!
HERE.
YES, ALZEID, REPRESENTING THE MONSTERS, WHAT IS IT?

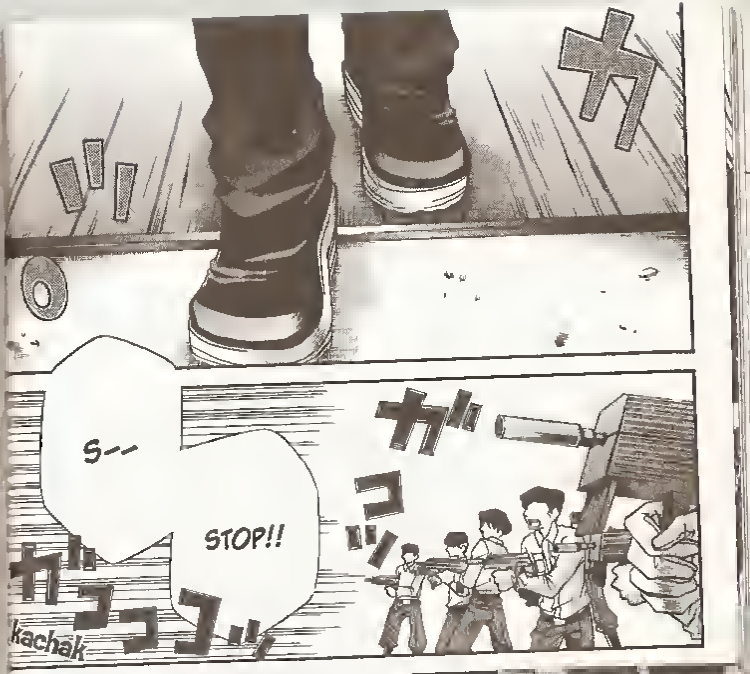




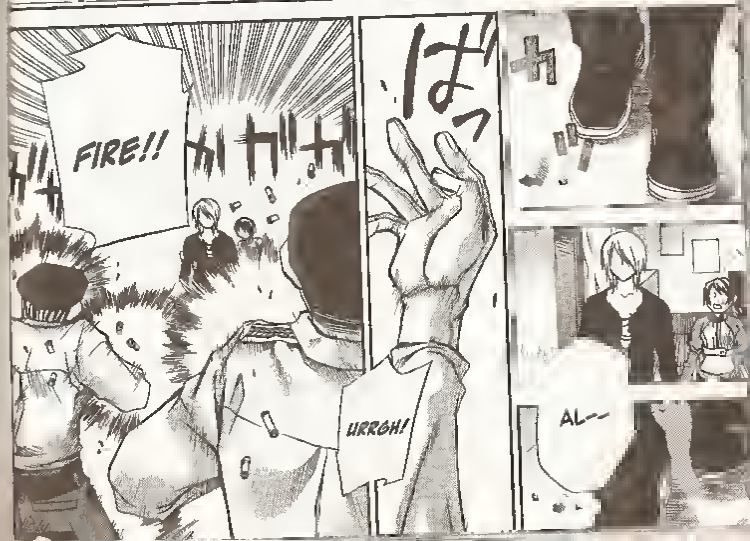
Chapter 48:
The Ephemeral Proposition--
Part 13: The Nature of Monsters, the Turf of the Protector

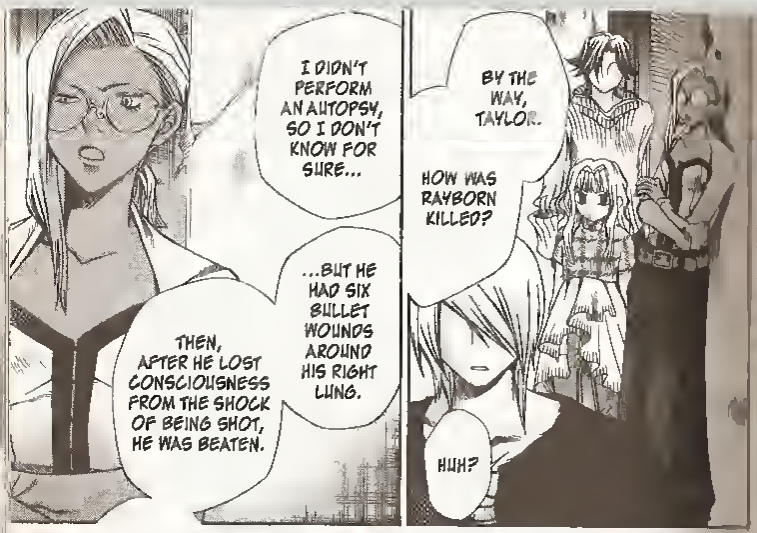

ばたん
Slam
Abandoning the strategy meeting
I DON'T FEEL LIKE THINKING ABOUT IT, SO I'M GOING TO GO KILL THEM ALL.
GAAAH! ALZEID?!
WILL YOU WAIT A MINUTE?!
DON'T GO. THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM. IT'S DANGEROUS.
HOLD ON-- YOU'RE JUST KIDDING, RIGHT?
THEY ASKED FOR IT.
IT'S ONLY FAIR TO GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT.
creeaak

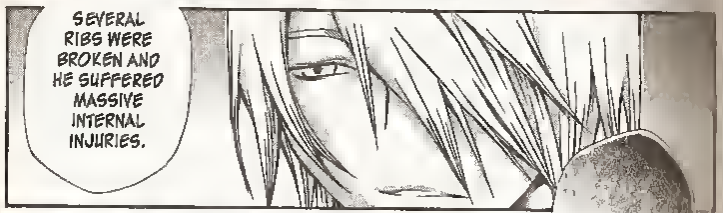

Foom


S--
STOP!!
kachak

DID YOU REALLY THINK THAT THE WEAPONS OF MEN WOULD WORK AGAINST MONSTERS?
Crunch
tinkle

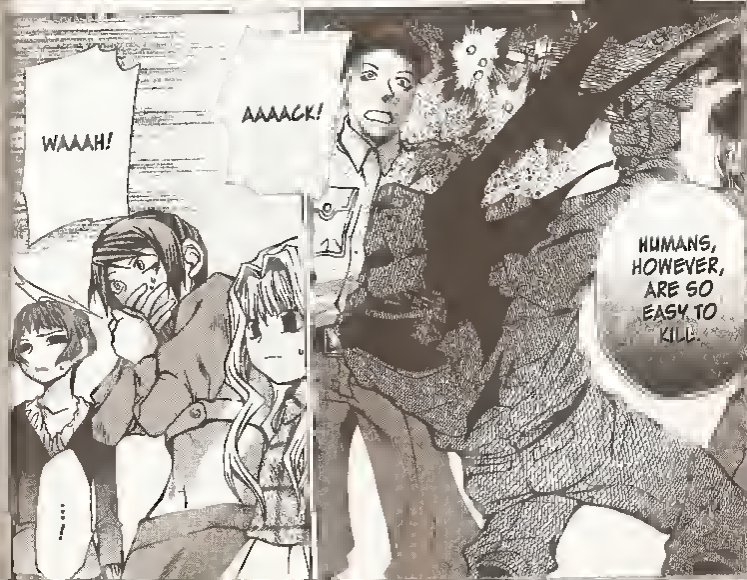

FIRE!!
URRGH!
AL--


I DIDN'T PERFORM AN AUTOPSY, SO I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE...
BY THE WAY, TAYLOR.
HOW WAS RAYBORN KILLED?
...BUT HE HAD SIX BULLET WOUNDS AROUND HIS RIGHT LUNG.
THEN, AFTER HE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS FROM THE SHOCK OF BEING SHOT, HE WAS BEATEN.
HUH?


SEVERAL RIBS WERE BROKEN AND HE SUFFERED MASSIVE INTERNAL INJURIES.

I SEE.
?!
H-HEY. WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
HEY...
AROUND HIS RIGHT LUNG...

HEY!
WHADDAYA THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
THAT'S REALLY TOO BAD.
MY HAND!! IT'S MOVING BY ITSELF!!
MY FINGER IS MOVING...
NO... HELP ME... HELP!


WAAAH!
AAAACK!
HUMANS, HOWEVER, ARE SO EASY TO KILL.

WHAT'RE YOU STOPPING ME FOR?
DON'T YOU WANT REVENGE FOR RAYBORN?
AND FOR INTERNAL INJURIES--
..THE RIB..
?!
...SIX SHOTS..
AAAAAAAA
GAAAAH!
AND NOW...
BUT THESE AREN'T THE GUYS WHO DID IT!
NO?
IT WAS ONE OF THEIR GANGS, THOUGH, WASN'T IT?
IF A SOLDIER IS A PRISONER OF WAR...
...DO THE GUARDS CARE IF HE NEVER KILLED ANYONE NIMSELF?
HE'D BE TREATED THE SAME WHETHER HE'D KILLED ONE PERSON OR A HUNDRED, NO?

IF YOU DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO SEE IT, YOU SHOULDN'T DO IT TO BEGIN WITH, YOU IDIOT!!
NOW LET ME GO
SHUT YOUR PIE HOLE AND COVER YOUR EARS
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WATCH THIS.
MY TRUE SELF...
SUCH A BLOODY SCENE...
DON'T YOU YELL AT ME LIKE THAT, DUMBASS!!
THEY SHOULD ALL SHOULDER THE BLAME.
EACH ONE...
...BEARS THE SAME GUILT.
WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF A GROUP?
HOW DO YOU PUNISH A GROUP FOR COMMITTING A CRIME?
DO YOU DIVIDE UP THE BLAME INTO TINY, PEA-SIZED PIECES?
DOES TAKING A DROP OF BLOOD FROM EACH INDIVIDUAL IN THE GROUP...
...MAKE UP FOR THE LIFE'S BLOOD OF ONE VICTIM?
THAT'S NOT RIGHT, IS IT?
YOU'RE A PSYCHO !!
If you overturn upside you won't have any chance
FINE! IN THAT CASE, LET ME WATCH. I'LL STARE AT YOU ALL THE TIME.
WHILE YOU SLEEP, WHILE YOU CHANGE, WHILE YOU SHOWE... YOU, EVERY MOVE WILL BE BURNED INTO MY MEMORY!
WHAT THE...?
THEN YOU'RE OKAY WITH PEOPLE WATCHING EVERY SINGLE THING YOU DO?
DON'T SAY DUMBASS, IDIOT!!
KEEP YOUR GUARD UP. DON'T LET THEM GET TO YOU. DON'T FORGET YOU'VE GOT CAMERAS ON YOU AT ALL TIMES!!

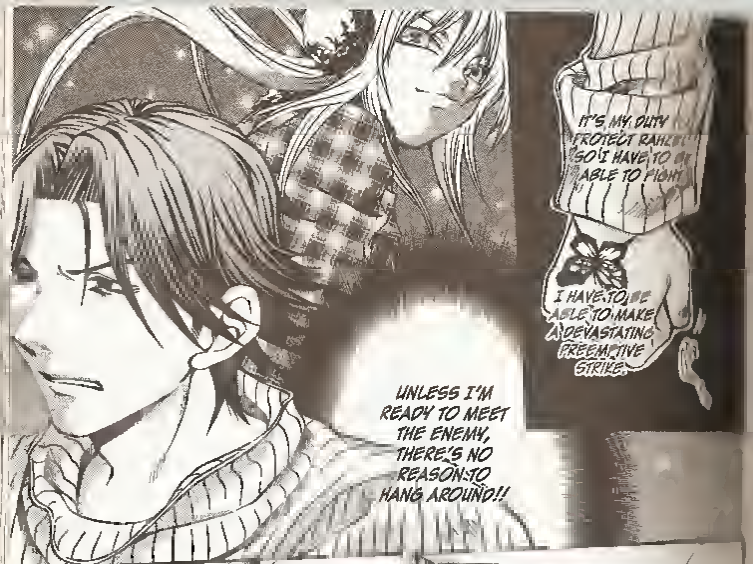
...BUT WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO HURT YOU-- NONE AT ALL.
IF YOU'LL CHALK WHAT JUST HAPPENED UP TO SELF-DEFENSE, WE'LL BE OUT OF TOWN BY THE END OF THE DAY.
YOU MIGHT THINK IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO SAY SO.
IF THIS IS AGREEABLE, KINDLY DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND TURN AROUND NOW!
YOU HAVE FIVE SECONDS. PLEASE HURRY. ☆
...ONE...
カミャン
ララララ
...THREE... TWO...
FIVE... FOUR...
ALL RIGHT. HERE I GO.

IF WE USE YOUR LOGIC
...THEN FRIENDS OF A KILLER ARE ALL KILLERS, RIGHT?
IF YOU BELIEVE THAT, DON'T DO ANYTHING YOU DON'T WANT YOUR FRIENDS TO SEE!
STAND TALL AND STEADFAST.
OTHERWISE, I CAN'T STAND WITH YOU AND SHARE YOUR BURDEN!
!...
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH.

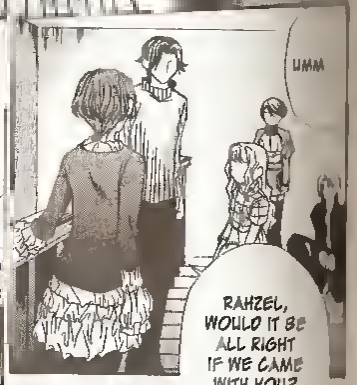
YOU HAVE THE SAME SCENT ABOUT YOU AS THAT MONSTER
...THE SILVER DEVIL.
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
UM... I'M STANDING RIGHT HERE WHILE YOU CALL ME FOUR-EYES.
YES! IT'S JUST LIKE BEING ON LUNCH DUTY--YOU'RE ON FOUR-EYES DUTY.
WHY ARE YOU LETTING THIS NO-FRAME FOUR-EYES TALK LIKE THIS, BAROQUEHEAT?
IT'S YOUR JOB TO QUICKLY REMOVE ANYTHING UNPLEASANT LIKE THIS FOUR-EYES FROM OUR SIGHT, YOU KNOW.
WE EACH HAVE OUR ASSIGNED DUTIES. THAT'S WHAT A COMMUNITY IS FOR!
HUH? REALLY?
...ZERO!!
I APOLOGIZE FOR ATTACKING YOU BASED ON MISTAKEN IDENTITY...
...BUT TO BE HONEST, I FEEL PERFECTLY JUSTIFIED NOW.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR US TO ATTACK YOU.
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S ONE THING TAKEN CARE OF.
A TEMPORARY CEASE-FIRE AT BEST.
WHAT A PINE MESS THIS IS.

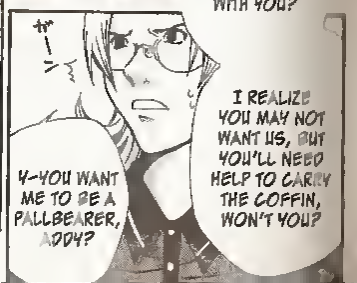
Chapter 49: The Ephemeral Proposition
Part 14: Part Two Scarlet Ashes to Ashes

I WANT TO BE IN CHARGE...
...OF PROTECTING IT ALL.
OH, BUT...
I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T SUPPOSE BEING IN CHARGE OF CRYING AND BEING SAD WILL DO, WILL IT?
IN THAT CASE, RAHZEL IS IN CHARGE OF BRINGING UP AL-BOY.
OH, NO WAY.
WHAT THEN?
...IF I COULD...
...I WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF PROTECTING THINGS...
SO NOTHING PRECIOUS...
...GETS LOST...
...OR SPILLED.


IT'S MY DUTY TO PROTECT RAHZEL, SO I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO FIGHT.
I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A DEVASTATING PREEMPTIVE STRIKE.
UNLESS I'M READY TO MEET THE ENEMY, THERE'S NO REASON TO HANG AROUND!!

THE PORT HERE IS STILL CLOSED, RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. I'VE ALREADY MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A BOAT.
IT MIGHT EVEN BE ANCHORED SOMEWHERE IN THE INLET ALREADY.
SO WERE YOU THINKING OF GOING AROUND BY LAND? THAT'LL TAKE TOO LONG...

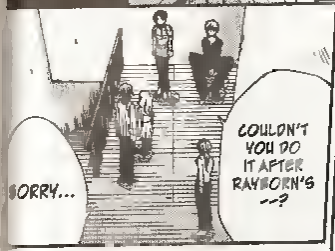

UMM
RAHZEL, WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF WE CAME WITH YOU?


I REALIZE YOU MAY NOT WANT US, BUT YOU'LL NEED HELP TO CARRY THE COFFIN, WON'T YOU?
Y-YOU WANT ME TO BE A PALLBEARER, ADDY?

SORRY.
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I'VE GOTTA TAKE CARE OF.
Barc quehe at replied quite plainly

—I proposed.
WE SHOULD DELIVER RAYBORN'S BODY TO HIS FAMILY.

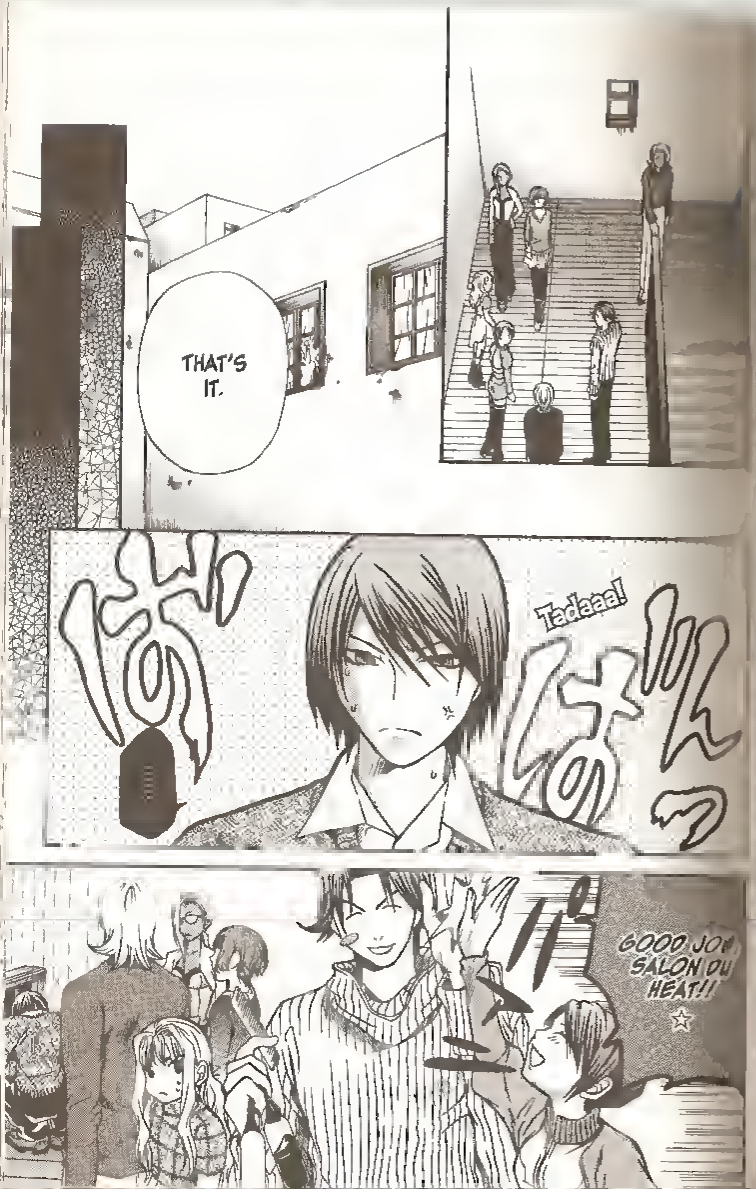
IS THAT SOME KIND OF CURSE?!
I HOPE OYSTER MUSHROOMS GROW OUT OF YOUR EARS...
UMM... YOUR SILENCE IS DEAFENING.
.....


SORRY...
COULDN'T YOU DO IT AFTER RAYBORN'S --?

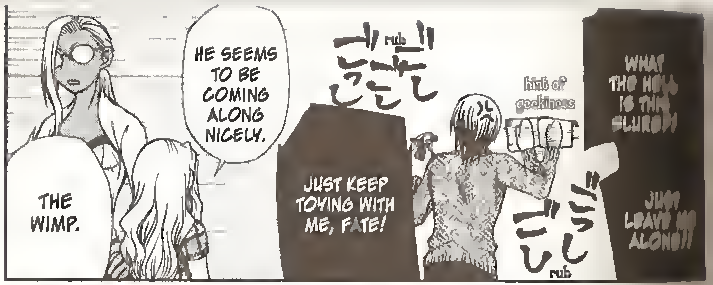
...BUT IT'S MUCH BETTER THAN GETTING YOU INVOLVED.
I'M REALLY SORRY TO LEAVE YOU AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
.....

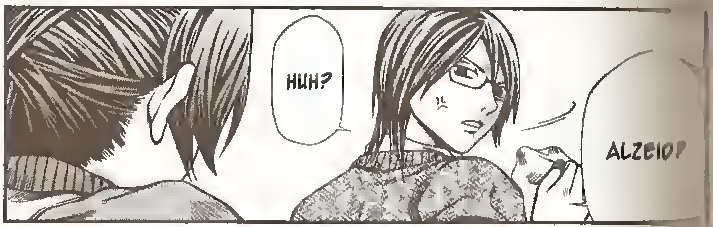
I HAD A LOOK, BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO WITHOUT PROPER EQUIPMENT.
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY RIGHT HAND.
WE'LL PROBABLY GO BACK FOR A WHILE TO THE TOWN WHERE I HAVE MY WORKSHOP.
I CAN'T GET THE BLADE TO COME OUT. I MUST'VE HURT IT SOMEHOW.

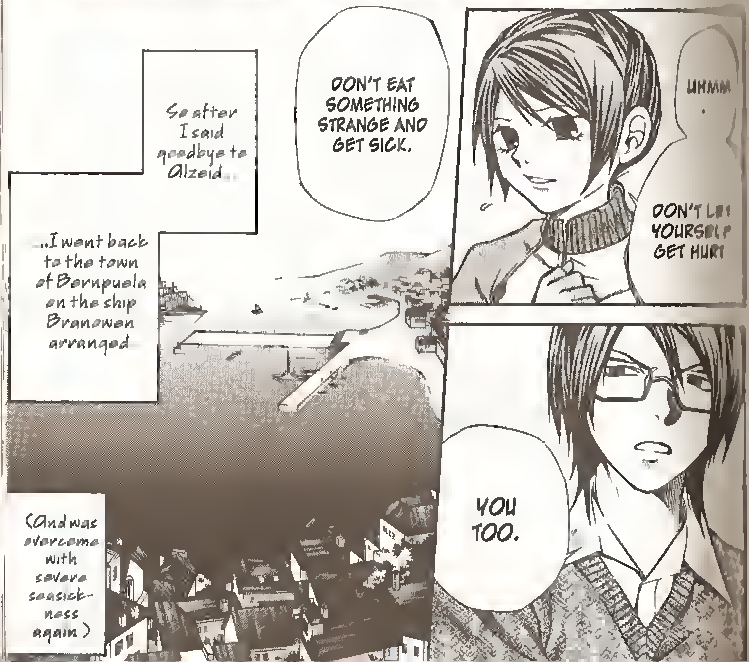
BUT WHERE IN THE VILLAGE? WE SHOULD HAVE A SPECIFIC PLACE TO GO.
SO WHERE SHOULD WE MEET?
HOW ABOUT THAT ONE VILLAGE?
THAT'S IT, THEN
WE'LL ALL MEET UP AGAIN AFTER WE'RE DONE WITH OUR OWN ERRANDS.
WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO?
YOU'LL APOLOGIZE TO THE DAD, GO TO THE FUNERAL, THEN WHAT?
AL-BOY, YOU'LL BE COMING WITH US, WON'T YOU?
I KNOW IT'S A ROUND-ABOUT PATH TO THAT VILLAGE WHERE THERE MIGHT BE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DAD'S ENEMY, BUT IT'LL JUST HAVE TO DO.
WE'RE SURE TO RUN INTO EACH OTHER.
NOT MANY PEOPLE VISIT THERE. THERE'S ONLY ONE INN-- IT'S ALSO A DINING HALL.
WE'LL JUST MEET AT THE INN
DON'T.
NO ...I'M GOING WITH RAHZEL.
I BELIEVE MY WORTHLESS BROTHER MAY BE ABLE TO HELP WITH THAT.
WORTH-LESS?!
NOW WE NEED JUST TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET OUT OF HERE WITHOUT BEING NOTICED.
IT'S CALLED YELLNENE. IT'S A TINY VILLAGE IN A VALLEY.
NO WAY. I JUST LOOKED IT UP.
THE INFORMATION WAS KIND OF OUTDATED, SO I'M NOT SURE HOW ACCURATE IT IS, BUT--
HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?
AFTER WE GO TO BERNPUELA, WE'LL BE COMING RIGHT BACK THROUGH HERE.
YOU SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM THIS PLACE.
.....
YEAH, ALZEID...
...I THINK TAYLOR IS RIGHT.


THAT'S IT.
Tadaaa!
GOOD JOB SALON DU HEAT!!

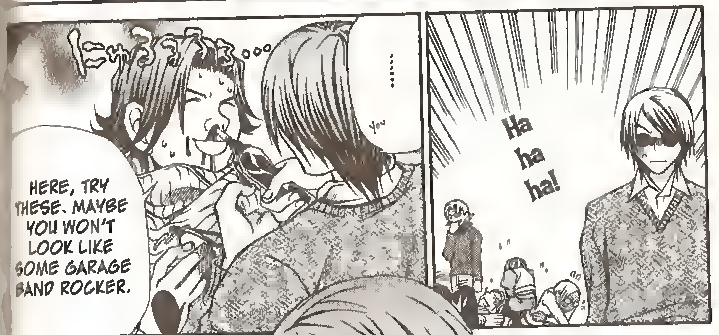
I DON'T ACTUALLY THINK THAT, IMP.
DON'T WORRY, I'M JUST BEING MODEST.
You know humble
IT MEANS DISAPPOINTING, DISGRACEFUL, THAT KIND OF THING.
NOW YOU'RE CALLING ME AN IMP?!
I KNOW WHAT THE WORD MEANS!
YES. ACTUALLY, IT'S THE ONLY TALENT HE HAS.
AND EVERYONE'S IGNORING ME!
I'VE COMPLETELY LOST FACE AS YOUR OLDER BROTHER.
WITHOUT IT, HE'D BE ABOUT AS USEFUL AS A DUST BUNNY, OR PERHAPS A LITTLE LESS.
REALLY? THAT'S CONVENIENT.
SO, HE CAN ACTUALLY TAKE CARE OF THAT FOR YOU.
TO BEGIN WITH, ALZEID STANDS OUT TOO MUCH.
IF HE COULD GET RID OF HIS SHOWY WHITE HAIR AND RED EYES, IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE EASIER, BUT...
SO, ASHMA, HOW POWERFUL IS YOUR LIGHT REFRACTION TRICK?
CAN YOU MAKE US ALL INVISIBLE?
IT'S POSSIBLE, BUT I CAN ONLY GUARANTEE AS FAR AS I CAN SEE.
ONCE YOU'RE OUT OF MY SIGHT, I CAN'T BE SURE OF ANYTHING.

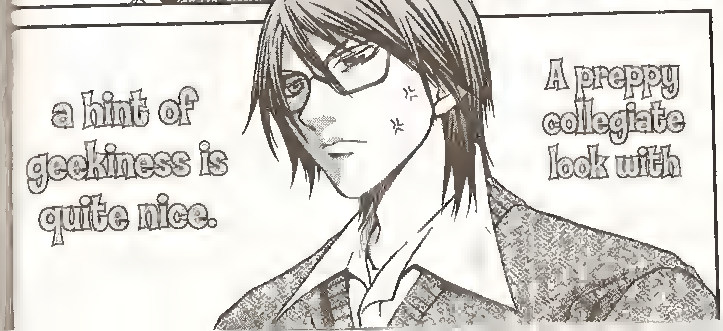

HE SEEMS TO BE COMING ALONG NICELY.
THE WIMP.
rub
JUST KEEP TOYING WITH ME, FATE!
hint of geekiness
rub
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS SLURSH!
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!!

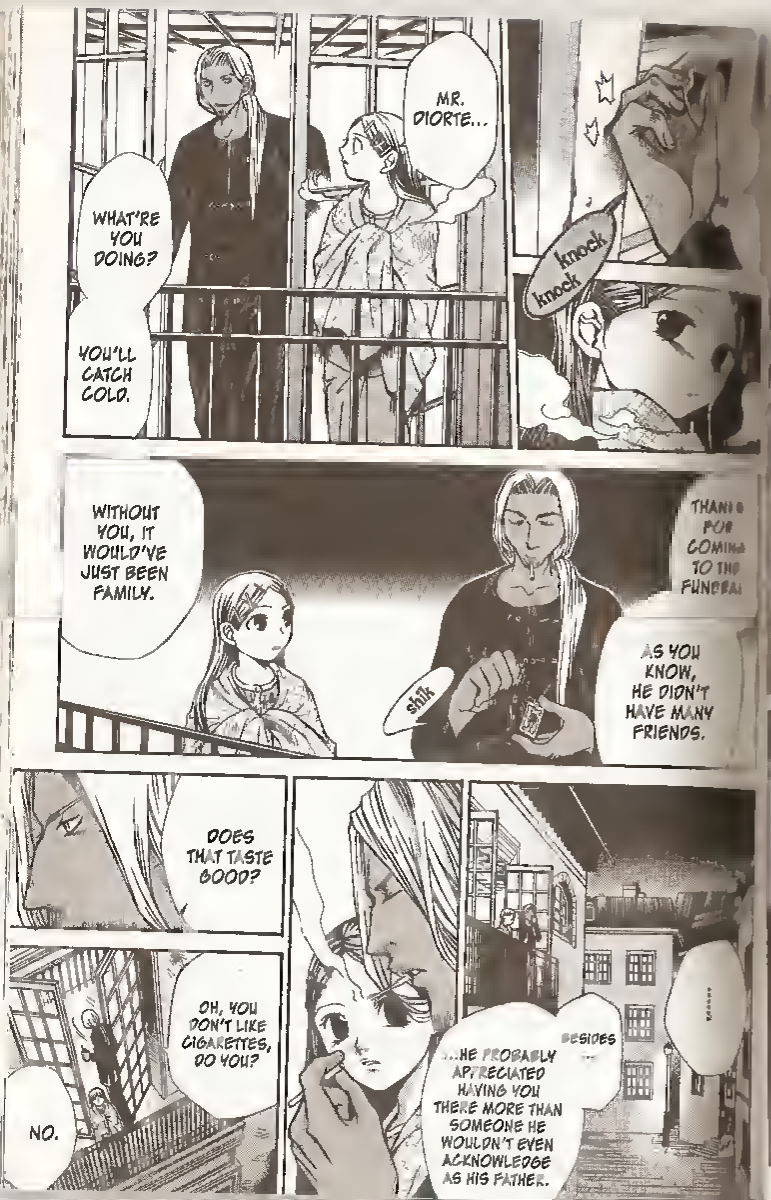

HUH?
ALZEID?


So after I said goodbye to Alzeid...
...I went back to the town of Barnpuela on the ship Branowen arranged.
DON'T EAT SOMETHING STRANGE AND GET SICK.
UHMM.
DON'T LET YOURSELF GET HURT
YOU TOO.
(And was overcome with severe seasickness again.)

AND TO FINISH UP...
...HIDE YOUR EYES WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
YES! WE'RE AT LEAST HALF MOTIVATED BY LOVE!!
WE'RE ALWAYS STRIVING TO ENVELOP YOU IN A SENSATION AKIN TO MATERNAL LOVE.
NOT AT ALL!
YOU GUYS ARE MAKING FUN OF ME, AREN'T YOU?


HERE, TRY THESE. MAYBE YOU WON'T LOOK LIKE SOME GARAGE BAND ROCKER.
Ha ha ha!


a hint of geekiness is quite nice.
A preppy collegiate look with

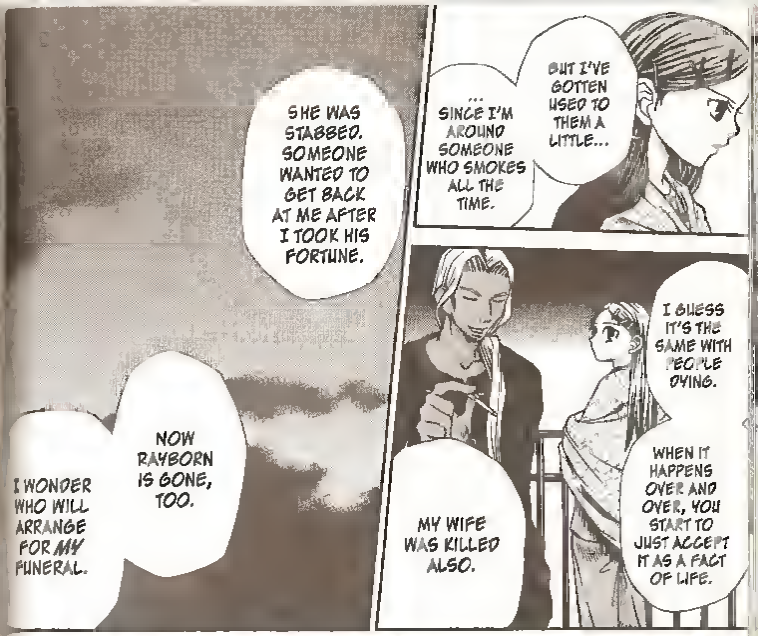

MR. DIORTE...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
YOU'LL CATCH COLD.
knock knock
WITHOUT YOU, IT WOULD'VE JUST BEEN FAMILY.
THANKS FOR COMING TO THE FUNERAL
SHIK
AS YOU KNOW, HE DIDN'T HAVE MANY FRIENDS.
DOES THAT TASTE GOOD?
OH, YOU DON'T LIKE CIGARETTES, DO YOU?
NO.
...HE PROBABLY APPRECIATED HAVING YOU THERE MORE THAN SOMEONE HE WOULDN'T EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE AS HIS FATHER.
BESIDES...
.....

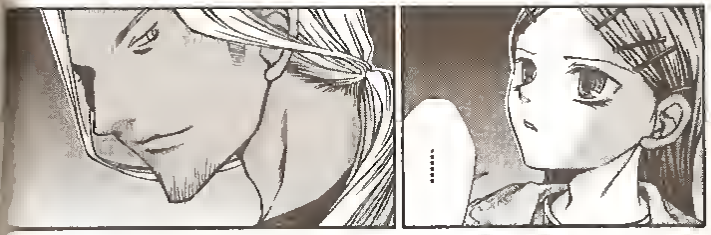
--He mumbled.
I SEE.
As we spoke about his son's death...
...Rayborn's dad kept his eyes lowered.
No condemnation.
No yelling.
Just two words. "I see."

...I DON'T PLAN ON BEING EASY TO KILL.
OF COURSE ...
DID YOU THINK I WOULD KILL YOU?
I THINK IT MAY COME TO THAT.
WHAT ARE YOU SCARED OF?
ビクッ
OH!

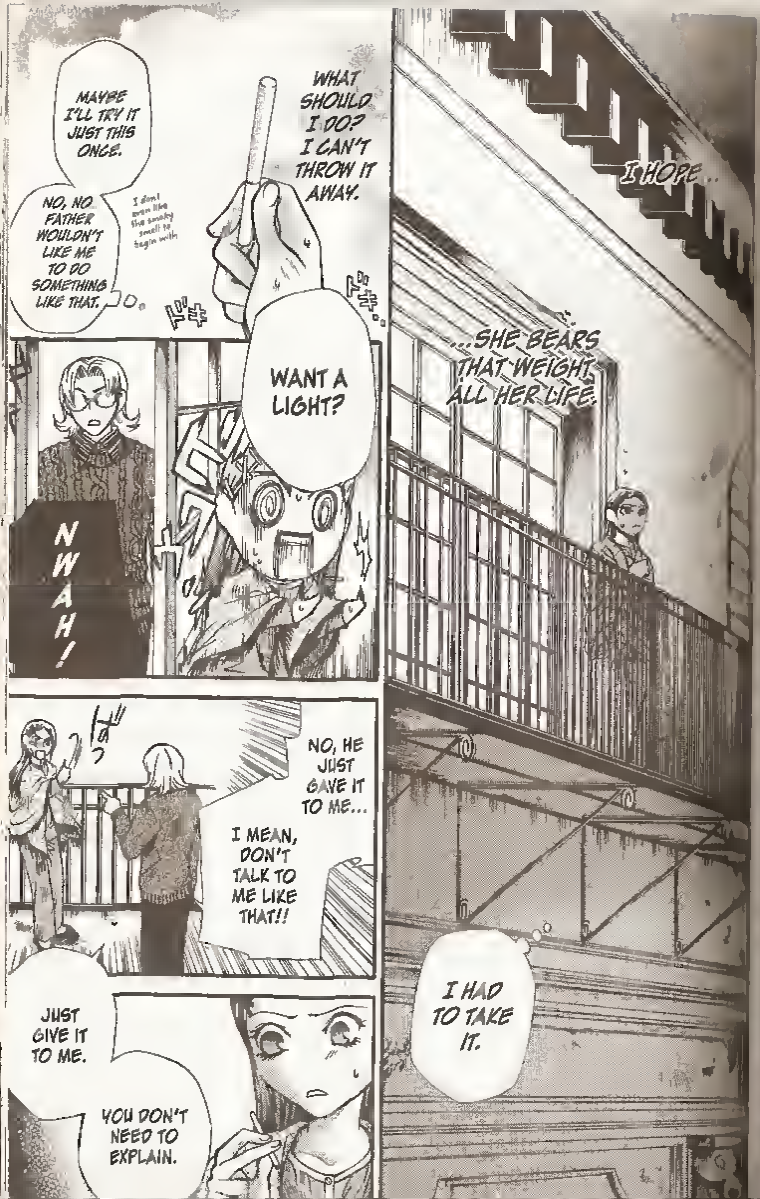
HOW CAN I EFFECTIVELY TORTURE YOU?
RAHZEL SEEMS TO SUFFER MOST BY BEING LEFT ALONE, BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF KILLING YOU, BUT I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD DO.

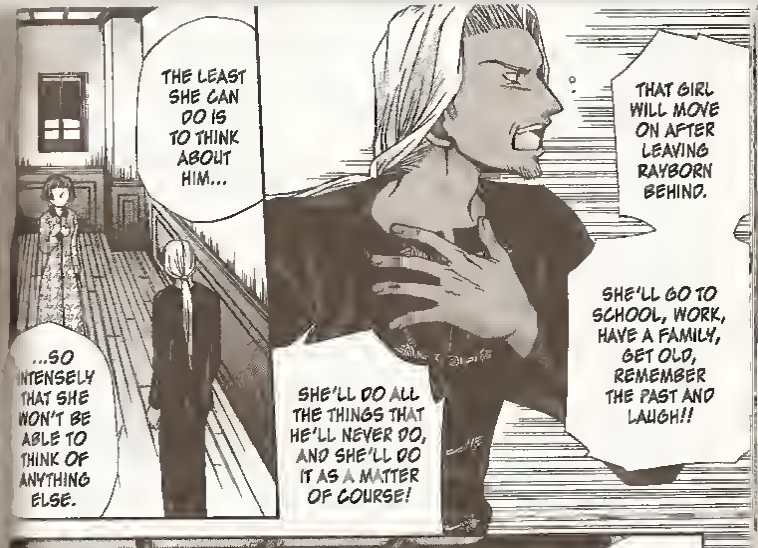
ha he hey
I MAY HAVE PLAYED A PART IN THIS, BUT RAHZEL...
SHE'S NOT GUILTY? REALLY?
I WILL PUNISH YOU JUST LIKE I PUNISHED THOSE WHO KILLED MY WIFE
I'LL PUNISH ALL OF YOU, AS WELL AS THE ONES RESPONSIBLE IN ACANEA.
WHAT?


SHE WAS STABBED. SOMEONE WANTED TO GET BACK AT ME AFTER I TOOK HIS FORTUNE.
I WONDER WHO WILL ARRANGE FOR MY FUNERAL.
NOW RAYBORN IS GONE, TOO.
... SINCE I'M AROUND SOMEONE WHO SMOKES ALL THE TIME.
BUT I'VE GOTTEN USED TO THEM A LITTLE...
MY WIFE WAS KILLED ALSO.
I GUESS IT'S THE SAME WITH PEOPLE DYING.
WHEN IT HAPPENS OVER AND OVER, YOU START TO JUST ACCEPT IT AS A FACT OF LIFE.

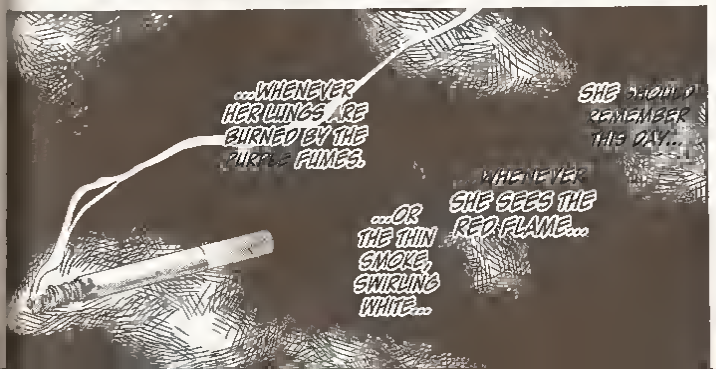

.....

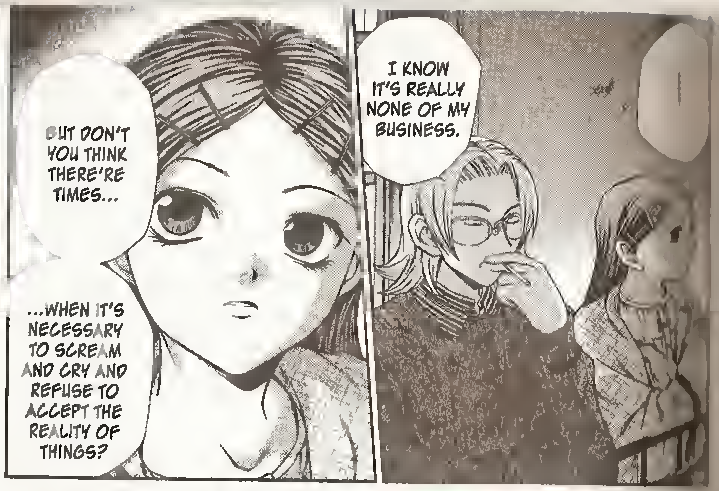
DO YOU WANT TO TRY A CIGARETTE?

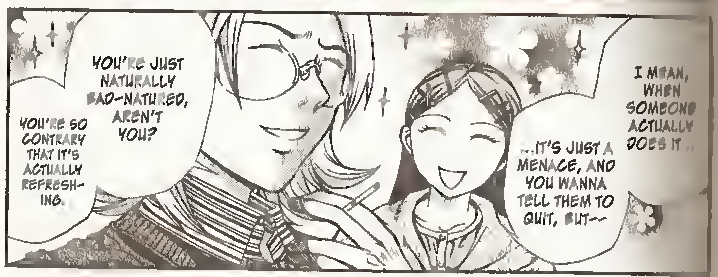

MAYBE I'LL TRY IT JUST THIS ONCE.
NO, NO FATHER WOULDN'T LIKE ME TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I don't even like the smoky smell to begin with.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? I CAN'T THROW IT AWAY.
WANT A LIGHT?
NWAH!
I HOPE...
...SHE BEARS THAT WEIGHT ALL HER LIFE.
NO, HE JUST GAVE IT TO ME...
I MEAN, DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE THAT!!
JUST GIVE IT TO ME.
YOU DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN.
I HAD TO TAKE IT.

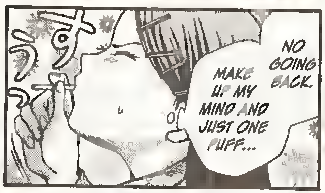

THE LEAST SHE CAN DO IS TO THINK ABOUT HIM...
...SO INTENSELY THAT SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE.
THAT GIRL WILL MOVE ON AFTER LEAVING RAYBORN BEHIND.
SHE'LL GO TO SCHOOL, WORK, HAVE A FAMILY, GET OLD, REMEMBER THE PAST AND LAUGH!!
SHE'LL DO ALL THE THINGS THAT HE'LL NEVER DO, AND SHE'LL DO IT AS A MATTER OF COURSE!

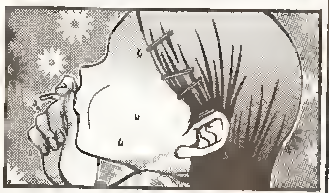
I WONDER IF SHE'LL LIGHT THE CIGARETTE.
OR WILL SHE JUST LEAVE IT SOMEWHERE AND FORGET ABOUT IT?
...RAYBORN WILL LIVE ON IN RAHZEL'S SOUL FOR A WHILE.
AT LEAST THEN...

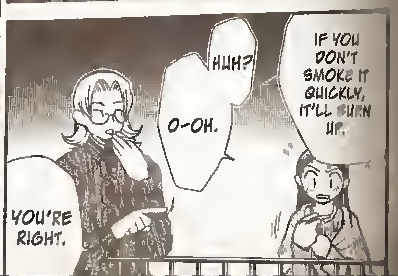

...WHENEVER HER LUNGS ARE BURNED BY THE PURPLE FUMES.
...OR THE THIN SMOKE, SWIRLING WHITE...
WHENEVER SHE SEES THE RED FLAME...
SHE SHOULD REMEMBER THIS DAY...

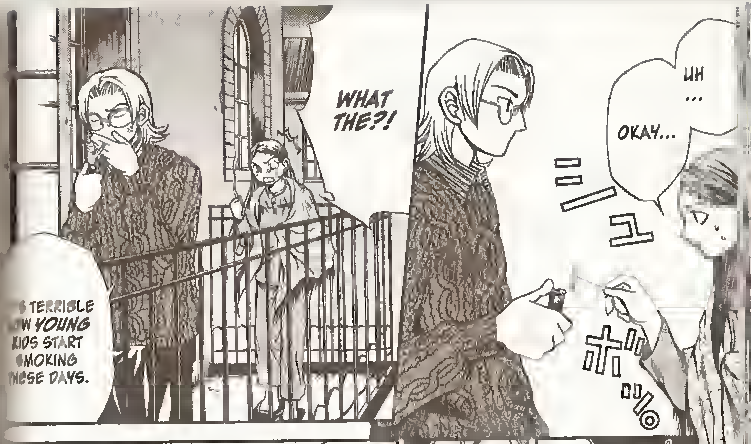

I KNOW IT'S REALLY NONE OF MY BUSINESS.
BUT DON'T YOU THINK THERE'RE TIMES...
...WHEN IT'S NECESSARY TO SCREAM AND CRY AND REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE REALITY OF THINGS?

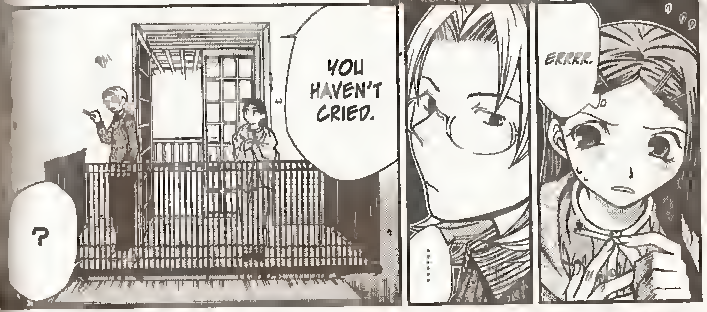

YOU'RE JUST NATURALLY BAD-NATURED, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE SO CONTRARY THAT IT'S ACTUALLY REFRESHING.
I MEAN, WHEN SOMEONE ACTUALLY DOES IT...
...IT'S JUST A MENACE, AND YOU WANNA TELL THEM TO QUIT, BUT--

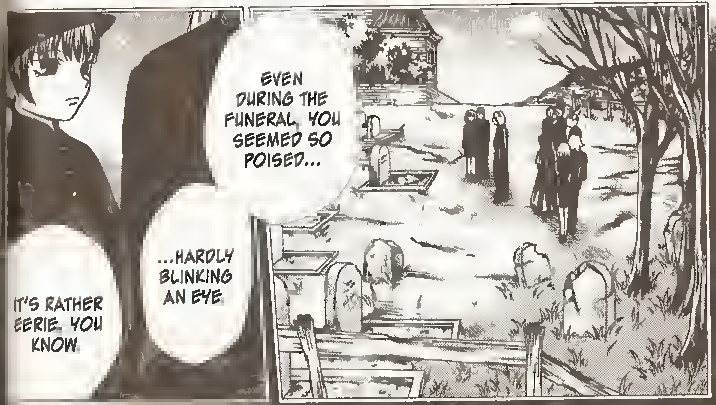

NO GOING BACK.
MAKE UP MY MIND AND JUST ONE PUFF...



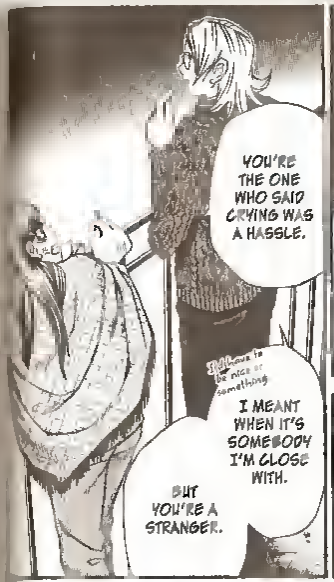

IF YOU DON'T SMOKE IT QUICKLY, IT'LL BURN UP.
HUH?
O-OH.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

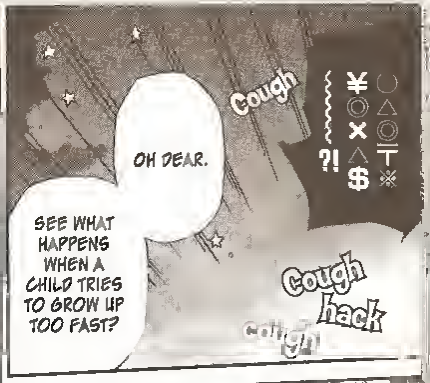

WHAT THE?!
S TERRIBLE W YOUNG IDS START MOKING HESE DAYS.
UH ...
OKAY...

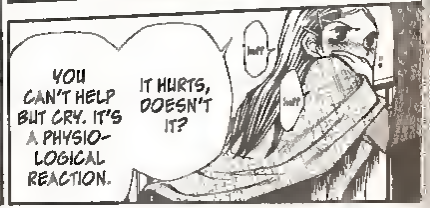

YOU HAVEN'T CRIED.
?
.....
ERRRR.


EVEN DURING THE FUNERAL, YOU SEEMED SO POISED...
...HARDLY BLINKING AN EYE.
IT'S RATHER EERIE, YOU KNOW.

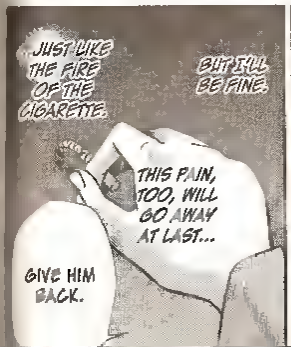
I DON'T WANT TO ADMIT IT.
HOW WE MET... WHAT WE SAID...
GIVE HIM BACK RAYBORN
BRING HIM BACK TO ME NOW
...IT'S ALL BURNING TO ASHES...
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE
...'TIL THERE'S NO TRACE LEFT.
I'LL NEVER SMOKE AGAIN.
RAYBORN ...
HE'S DEAD!!

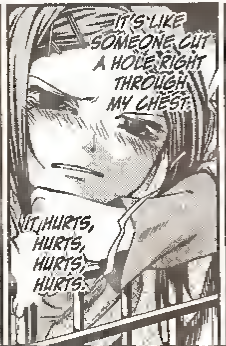

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID CRYING WAS A HASSLE.
I MEANT WHEN IT'S SOMEBODY I'M CLOSE WITH.
BUT YOU'RE A STRANGER.

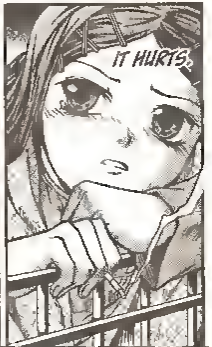

Cough
OH DEAR.
SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHILD TRIES TO GROW UP TOO FAST?
Cough hack
?!

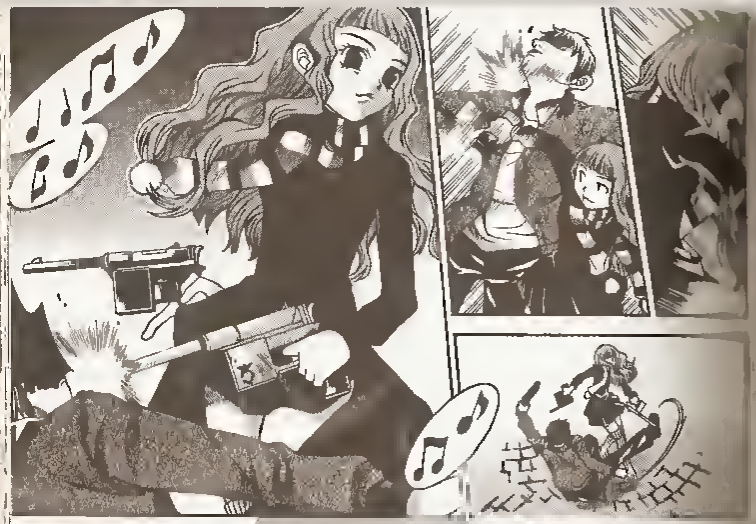

YOU CAN'T HELP BUT CRY. IT'S A PHYSIOLOGICAL REACTION.
IT HURTS, DOESN'T IT?

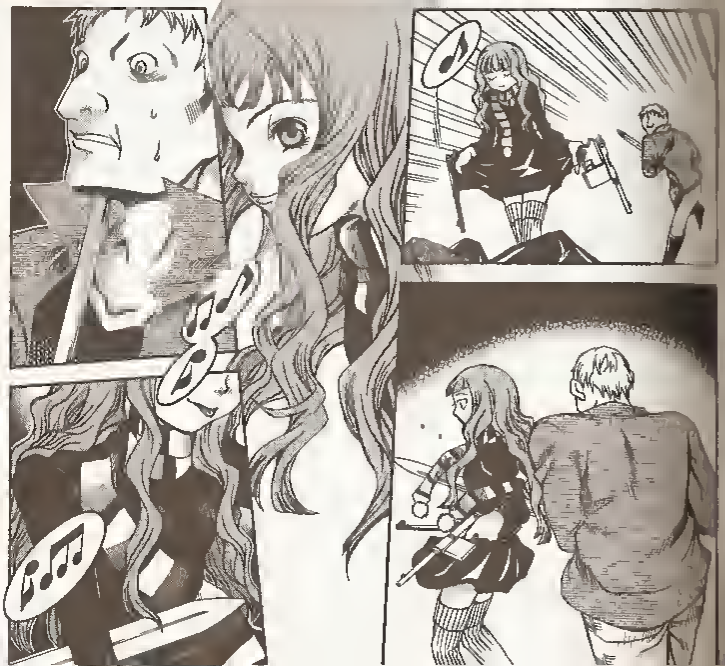
STOP IT.
SEEING YOU PUT ON AIRS AND ACT ALL STOIC IS EVEN WORSE.

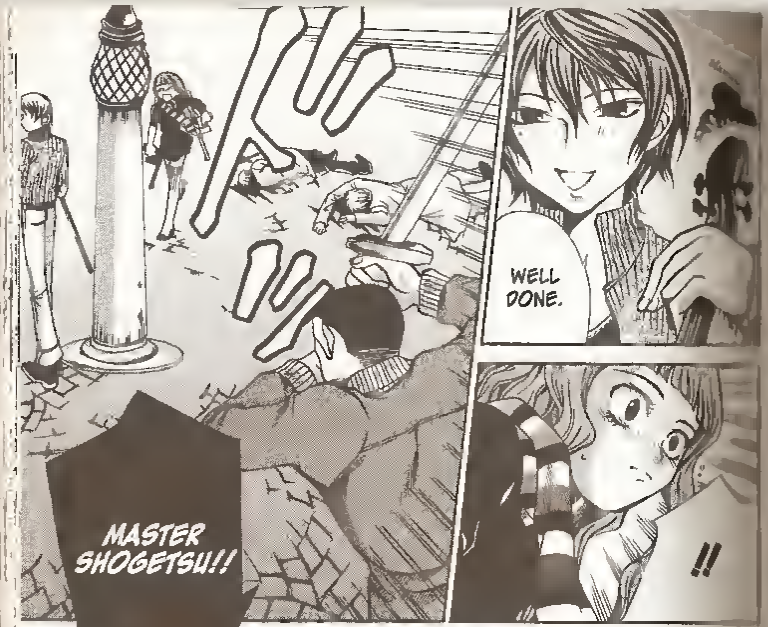

...JUST LIKE THE FIRE OF THE CIGARETTE.
BUT I'LL BE FINE.
THIS PAIN, TOO, WILL GO AWAY AT LAST...
GIVE HIM BACK.

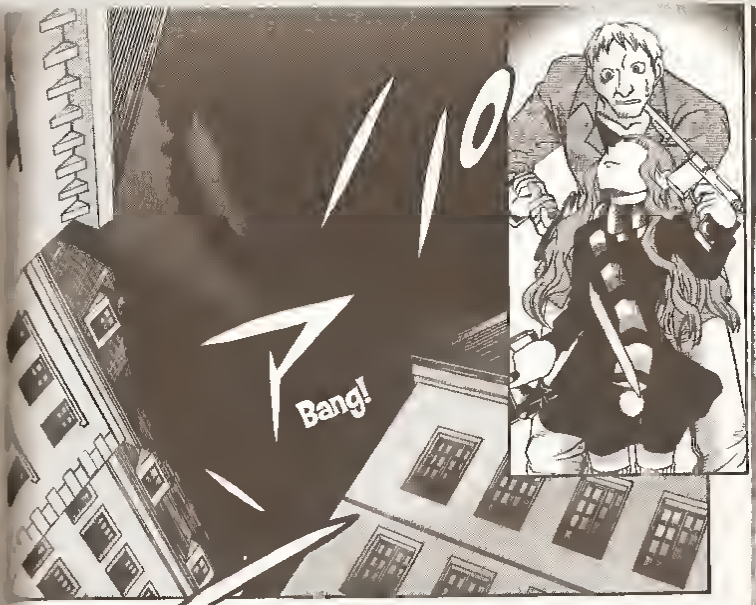

IT'S LIKE SOMEONE CUT A HOLE RIGHT THROUGH MY CHEST.
IT HURTS, HURTS, HURTS, HURTS.


IT HURTS.

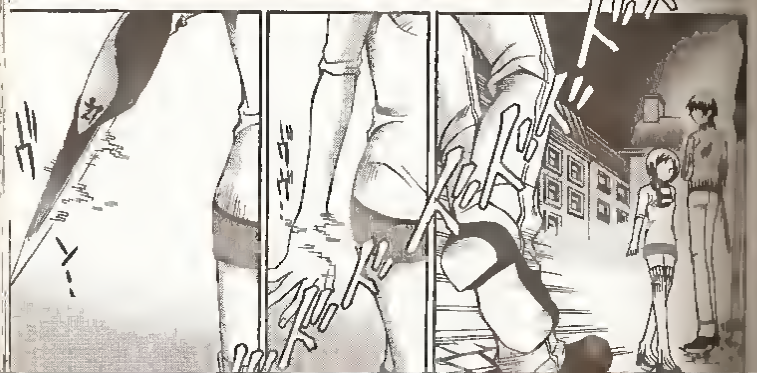


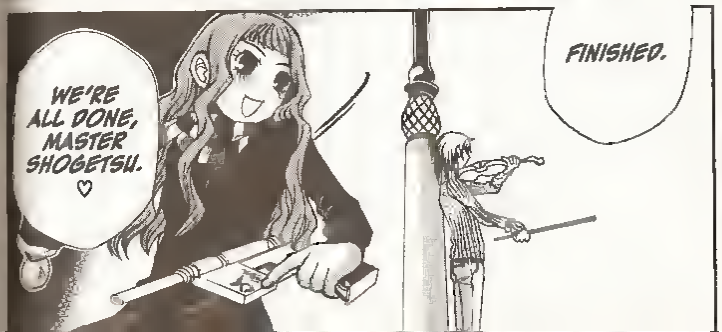



WELL DONE.
!!
MASTER SHOGETSU!!

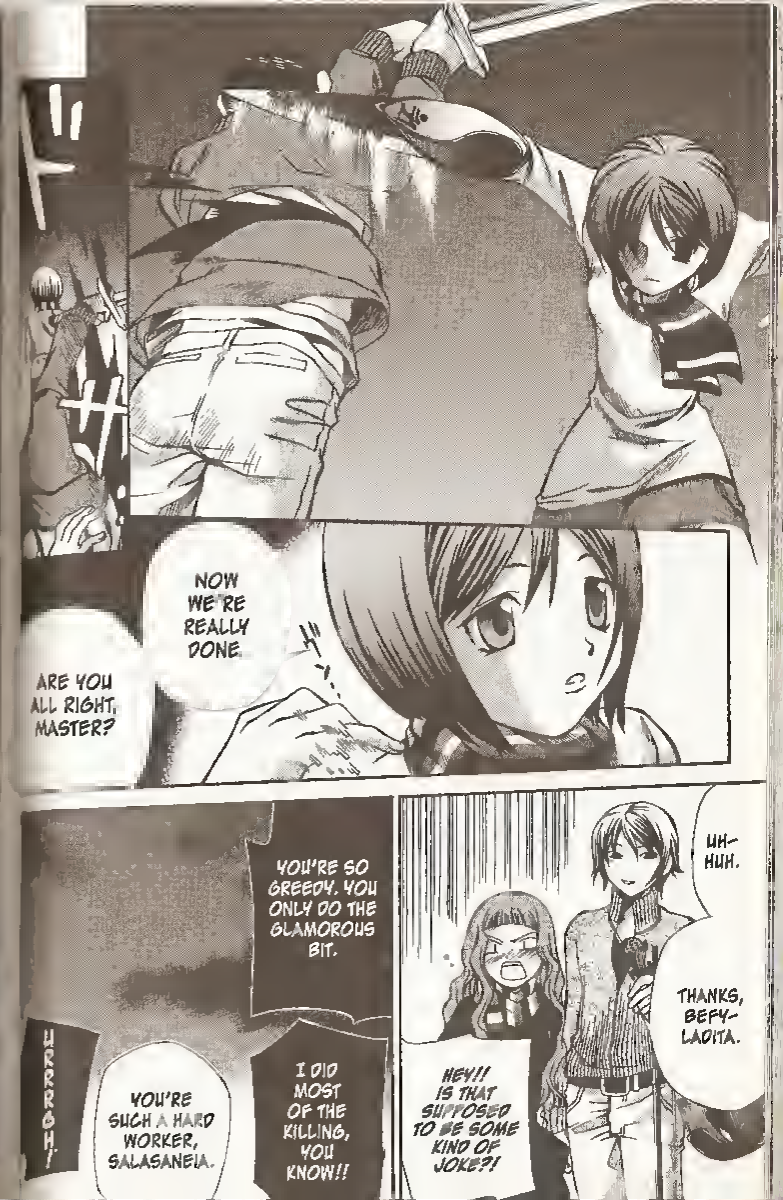

Bang!

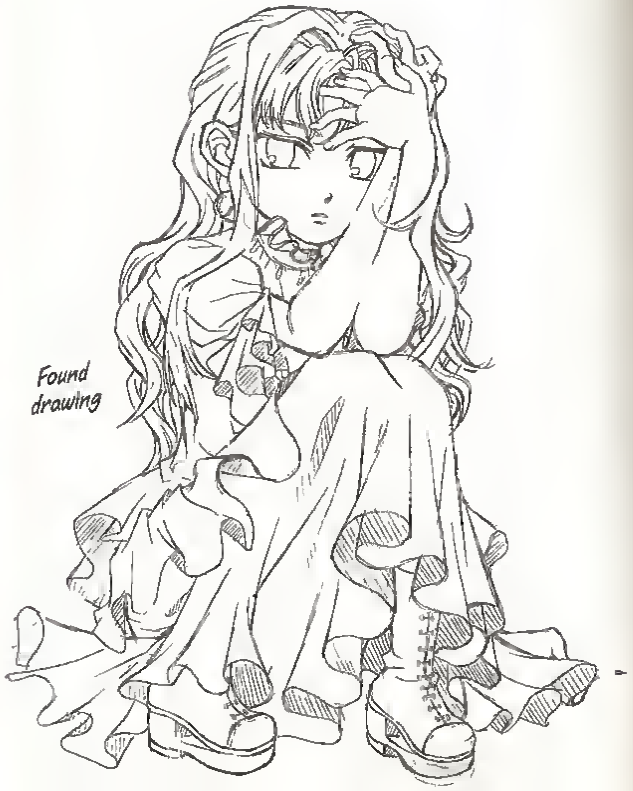
SQUEEEK♪




FINISHED.
WE'RE ALL DONE, MASTER SHOGETSU. ♡

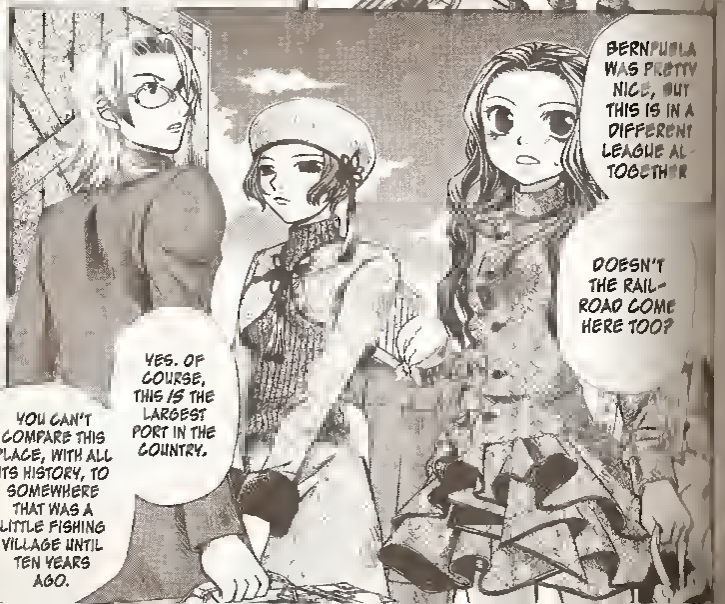
I'm bored
VIOLIN'S NOT AS FUN AS I THOUGHT.
I DON'T WANT IT ANYMORE.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE INTERESTING. TOO BAD.
NO. DON'T WANT TO.
IT'S COLD. I'M GOING HOME.
MASTER SHOGETSU, WOULD YOU IGNORE THIS GIRL AND PLAY ANOTHER TUNE...
...TO SET A BETTER MOOD?
A DOG!! I WOULD LIKE A DOG.
TWO DOGS! A BIG ONE AND A SMALL ONE!!
I can take care of it!!
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO NEXT? WOULD YOU LIKE A PET, PERHAPS?
YOU WERE SO INTO IT A FEW WEEKS AGO.
BUT LIVING THINGS DIE SO EASILY.
AN ANIMAL?


NOW WE'RE REALLY DONE.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MASTER?
YOU'RE SO GREEDY. YOU ONLY DO THE GLAMOROUS BIT.
I DID MOST OF THE KILLING, YOU KNOW!!
URRRRGH!
YOU'RE SUCH A HARD WORKER, SALASANELA.
UH-HUH.
THANKS, BEFY-LADITA.
HEY!! IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE SOME KIND OF JOKE?!

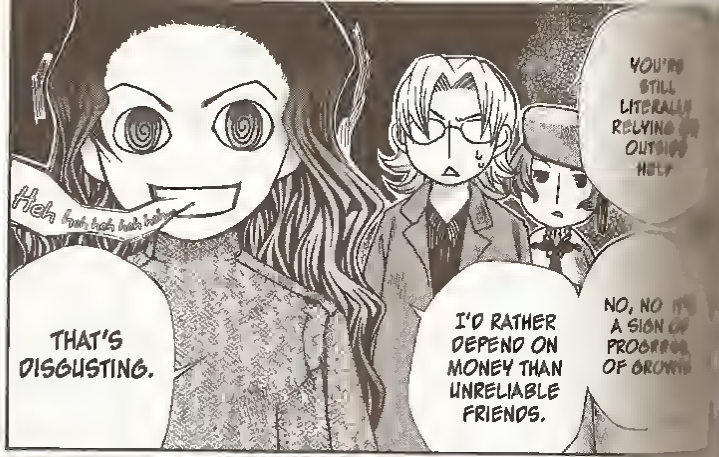


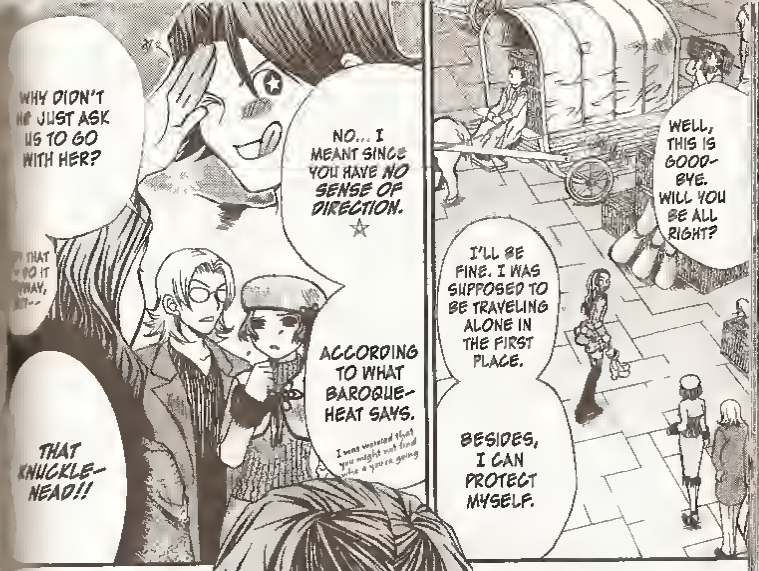
Found drawing

BUT YOU TIRE OF THEM SO QUICKLY.
I LOVE THEM. ♡
THEN IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN GET FOR YOU?
YOU'RE RIGHT. I WONDER IF THERE IS...
YOU LIKE THINGS! INORGANIC THINGS!
...SOMETHING I WOULD WANT--
A LIVING THING THAT WON'T BREAK OR GET BORING.

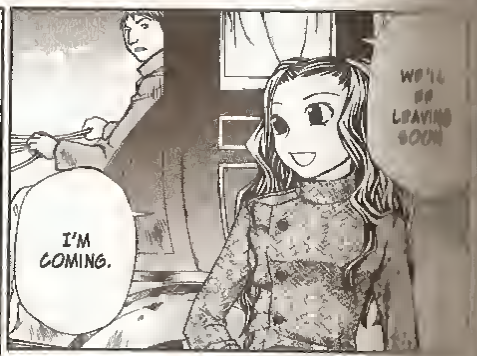

BERNBURG WAS PRETTY NICE, BUT THIS IS IN A DIFFERENT LEAGUE ALTOGETHER
DOESN'T THE RAILROAD COME HERE TOO?
YES. OF COURSE, THIS IS THE LARGEST PORT IN THE COUNTRY.
YOU CAN'T COMPARE THIS PLACE, WITH ALL ITS HISTORY, TO SOMEWHERE THAT WAS A LITTLE FISHING VILLAGE UNTIL TEN YEARS AGO.

Chapter 50: Passerby A's Gloom


Heh heh heh heh heh
YOU'RE STILL LITERALLY RELYING ON OUTSIDE HELP
THAT'S DISGUSTING.
I'D RATHER DEPEND ON MONEY THAN UNRELIABLE FRIENDS.
NO, NO IT'S A SIGN OF PROGRESS OF GROWTH


WHY DIDN'T HE JUST ASK US TO GO WITH HER?
NO... I MEANT SINCE YOU HAVE NO SENSE OF DIRECTION.
ACCORDING TO WHAT BAROQUE-HEAT SAYS.
I was worried that you might not find who you're going
THAT KNUCKLE-HEAD!!
WELL, THIS IS GOOD-BYE. WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?
I'LL BE FINE. I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE TRAVELING ALONE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
BESIDES, I CAN PROTECT MYSELF.

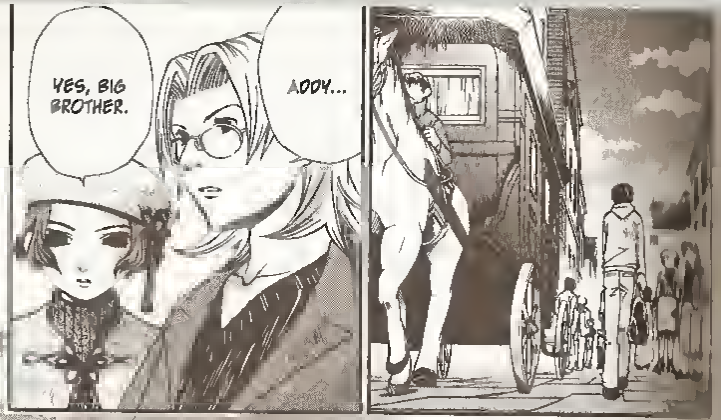
I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO FORGIVE YOU.
BUT THANK YOU NONETHE-LESS...
...FOR BEING KIND TO ME.


WE'LL BE LEAVING SOON
I'M COMING.

I'M NOT SURE "THANK YOU" IS REALLY THE RIGHT PHRASE.
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE.
WHI THEN, ADUN AND ASHMA

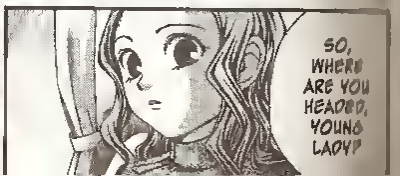
I WILL ACCEPT MY SHORT-COMING, AND SHALL OVERCOME IT.
HOWEVER, HUMANS ARE ALWAYS EVOLVING.
I ADMIT IT. I'M BIG ENOUGH TO ADMIT IT.
WELL, YES. PERHAPS I DO WANDER A BIT FROM TIME TO TIME.

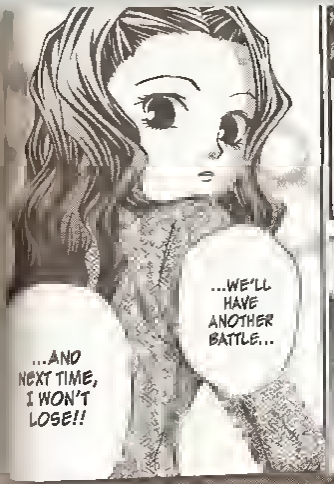
Like this.

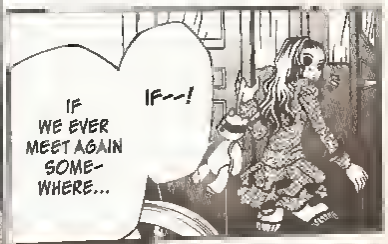


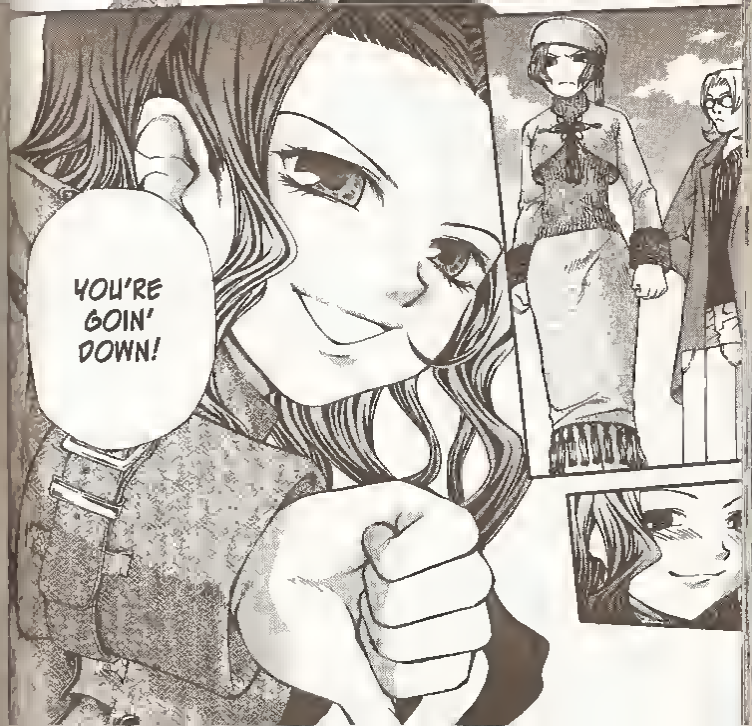
WE'LL BEAT HER TO A PULP.

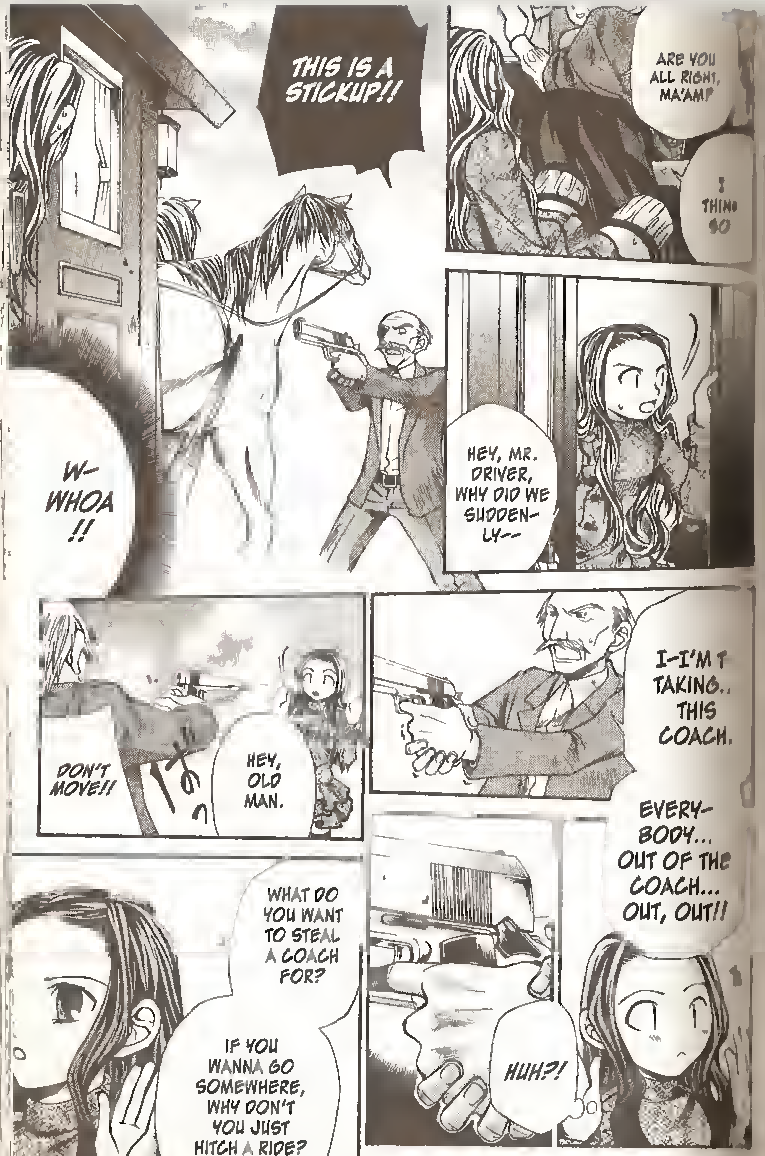
I'LL TAKE THIS COACH TO THE LAST STOP, THEN LOOK FOR ANOTHER GOING FARTHER SOUTH.
ALL BY YOURSELF? THAT'S QUITE A LONG WAY.
YOU'RE SO YOUNG. AREN'T YOUR PARENTS WORRIED?
YOU'RE ONLY ABOUT AS OLD AS THE GRANDCHILD I'M GOING TO VISIT.

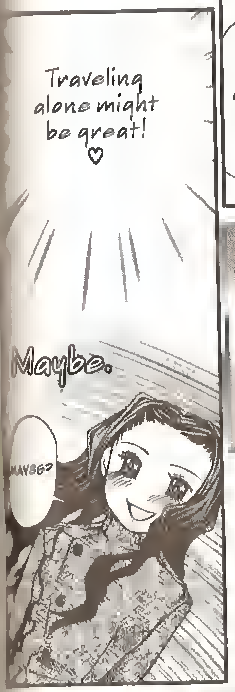


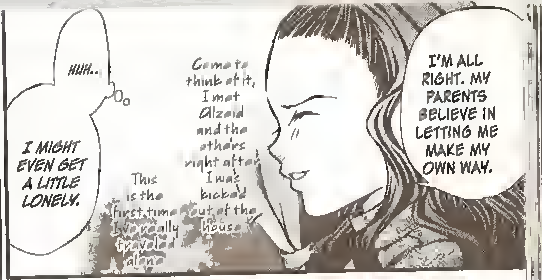


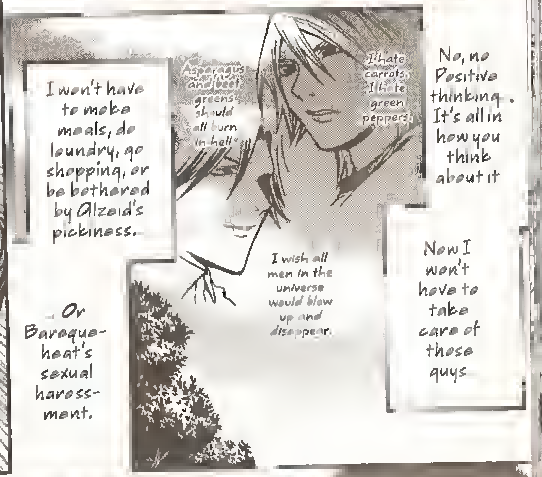


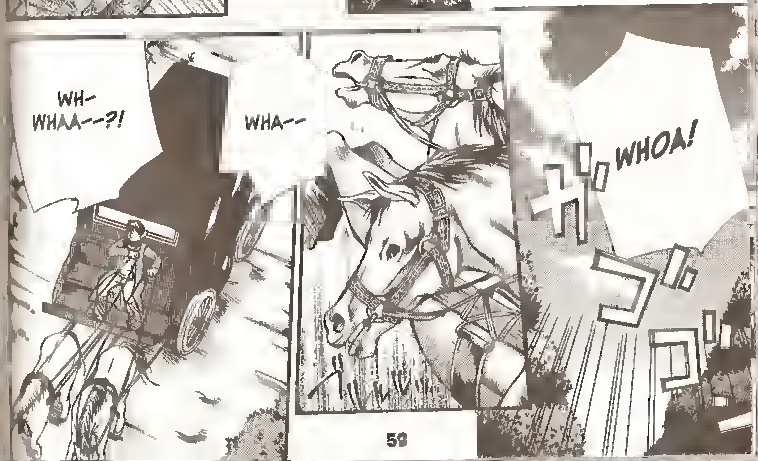



THIS IS A STICKUP!!
W-WHOA!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MA'AM?
I THINK SO
HEY, MR. DRIVER, WHY DID WE SUDDENLY--
DON'T MOVE!!
HEY, OLD MAN.
I-I'M T TAKING.. THIS COACH.
EVERYBODY... OUT OF THE COACH... OUT, OUT!!
HUH?!
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO STEAL A COACH FOR?
IF YOU WANNA GO SOMEWHERE, WHY DON'T YOU JUST HITCH A RIDE?


Traveling alone might be great!
♡
Maybe.
MAYBE?

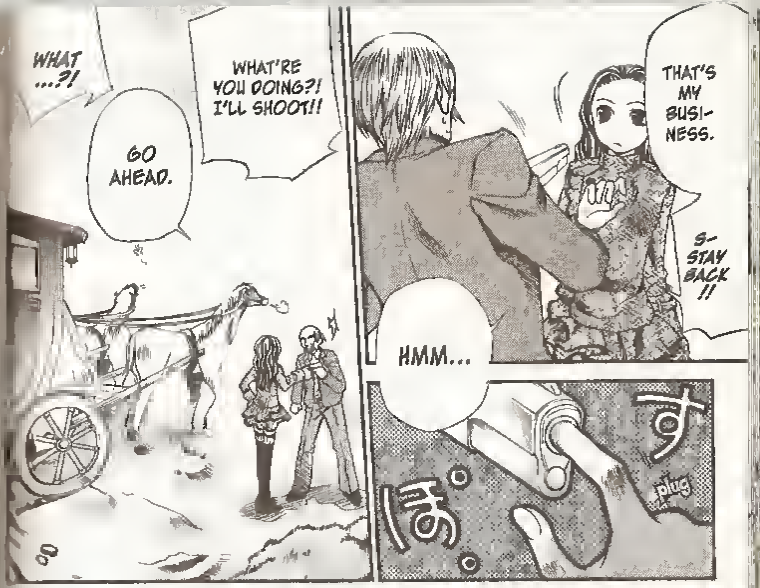

I'M ALL RIGHT. MY PARENTS BELIEVE IN LETTING ME MAKE MY OWN WAY.
Come to think of it, I met Alzaid and the others right after I was kicked out of the house.
This is the first time I've really traveled alone.
HUH..
I MIGHT EVEN GET A LITTLE LONELY.


I won't have to make meals, do laundry, go shopping, or be bothered by Alzaid's pickiness.
Asparagus and beef greens should all burn in hell!
I hate carrots! I'll be green pepper!
No, no Positive thinking. It's all in how you think about it
I wish all men in the universe would blow up and disappear.
Now I won't have to take care of those guys.
...Or Baraqueheat's sexual harassment.


WH-WHAA--?!
WHA--
WHOA!

IF YOU UNDERSTAND, LOWER YOUR WEAPON, YOU PEA BRAIN!!
I CAN'T WHILE YOUR FINGER IS IN THE WAY!!
ガラガラガラガラガラ
SO?

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO DO SOMETHING AS STUPID AS ROBBING A COACH?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO HIS STUPID STORY.
OH, BUT I'M SURE HE HAS A GOOD REASON.
HE LOOKS LIKE SUCH AN ORDINARY, GOOD CITIZEN.


WHAT...?!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?! I'LL SHOOT!!
GO AHEAD.
THAT'S MY BUSINESS.
S-STAY BACK!!
HMM...
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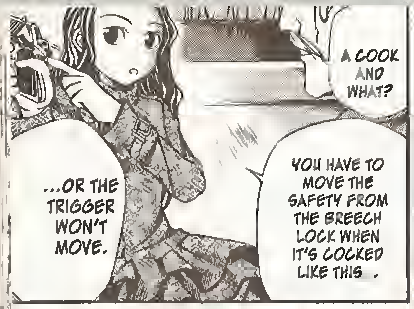
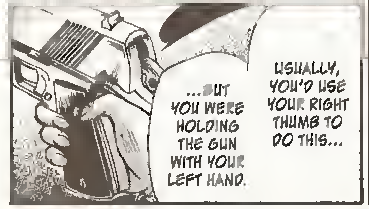
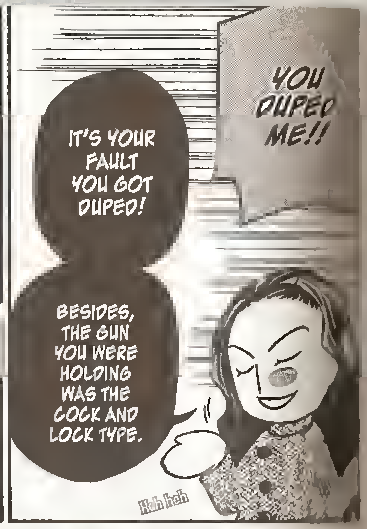
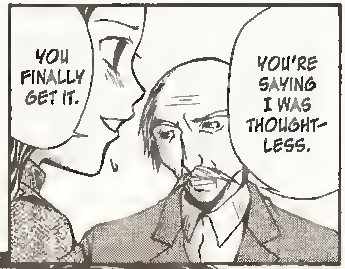
plug

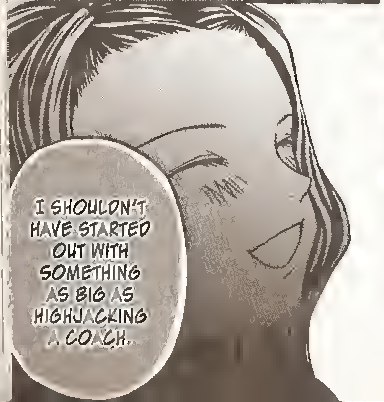
I MIGHT LOSE A FINGER, BUT THAT'S ALL.
I'LL LIVE.
BUT...BUT WON'T YOU BE--
WHEN THE GUN EXPLODES, YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'LL GET HURT.
BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN IF YOU PULL THE TRIGGER WITH THE END PLUGGED UP LIKE THIS?

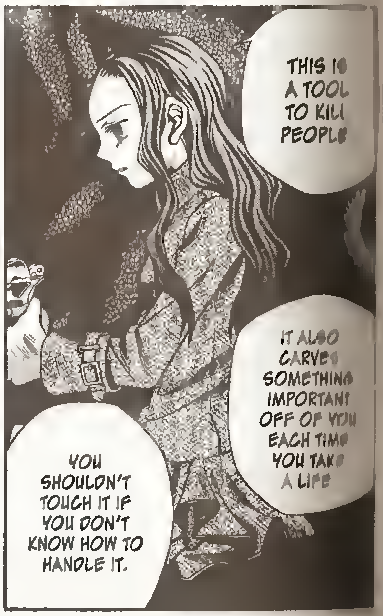

A COCK AND WHAT?
YOU HAVE TO MOVE THE SAFETY FROM THE BREECH LOCK WHEN IT'S COCKED LIKE THIS.
...OR THE TRIGGER WON'T MOVE.

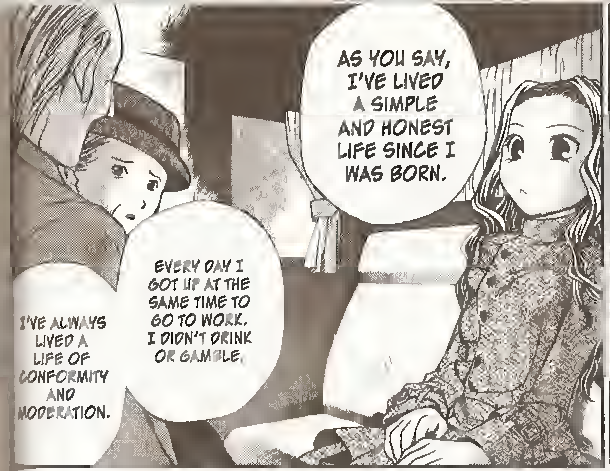

USUALLY, YOU'D USE YOUR RIGHT THUMB TO DO THIS...
...BUT YOU WERE HOLDING THE GUN WITH YOUR LEFT HAND.

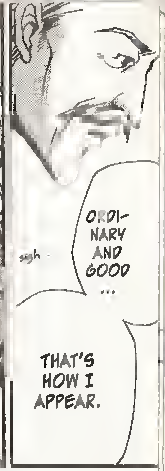

YOU DUPED ME!!
IT'S YOUR FAULT YOU GOT DUPED!
BESIDES, THE GUN YOU WERE HOLDING WAS THE COCK AND LOCK TYPE.
Hah hah


YOU'RE SAYING I WAS THOUGHT-LESS.
YOU FINALLY GET IT.

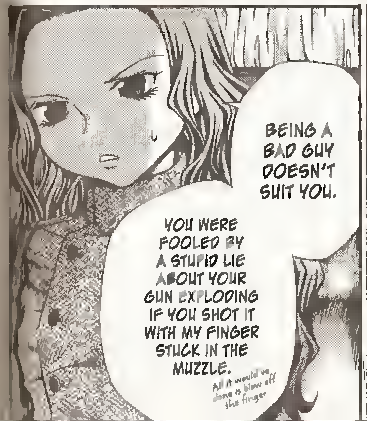

I SHOULDN'T HAVE STARTED OUT WITH SOMETHING AS BIG AS HIGHJACKING A COACH.

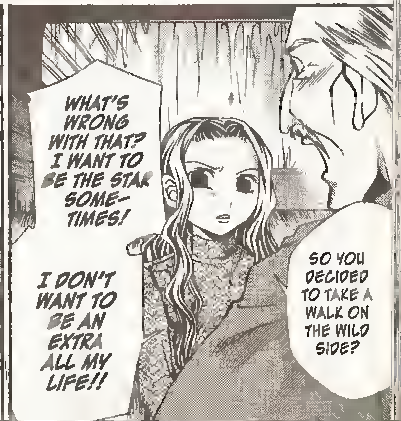

THIS IS A TOOL TO KILL PEOPLE
IT ALSO CARVES SOMETHING IMPORTANT OFF OF YOU EACH TIME YOU TAKE A LIFE
YOU SHOULDN'T TOUCH IT IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE IT.

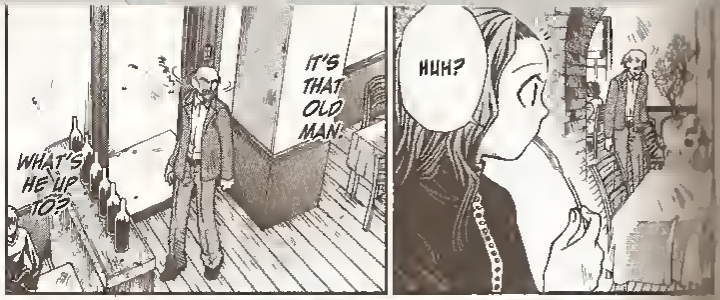

AS YOU SAY, I'VE LIVED A SIMPLE AND HONEST LIFE SINCE I WAS BORN.
EVERY DAY I GOT UP AT THE SAME TIME TO GO TO WORK. I DIDN'T DRINK OR GAMBLE.
I'VE ALWAYS LIVED A LIFE OF CONFORMITY AND MODERATION.

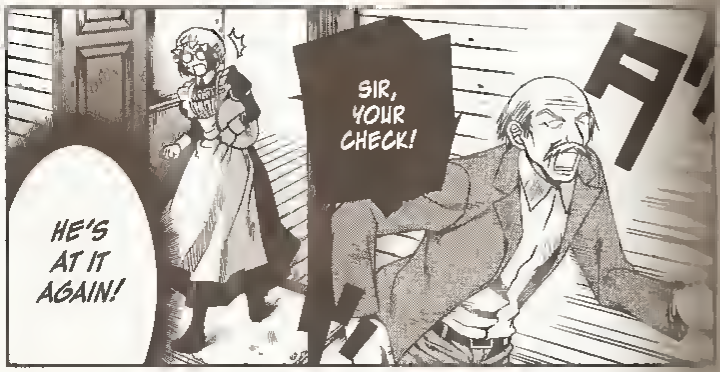

sigh
ORDI-NARY AND GOOD ...
THAT'S HOW I APPEAR.

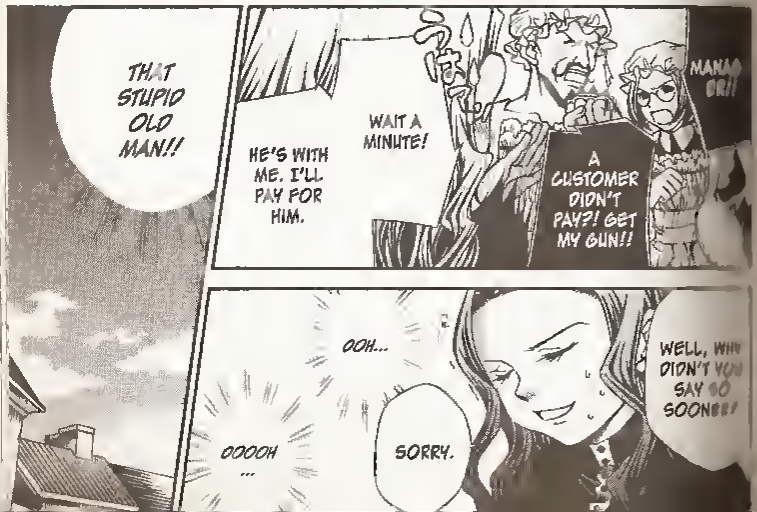
...NOT A SINGLE THING THAT OTHER PEOPLE TAKE FOR GRANTED.
...NO FRIENDS TO TALK WITH ABOUT THE PAST, NO WIFE, NO GRAND-CHILDREN...
BUT ONE DAY I LOOKED AROUND, AND REALIZED I HAD NO ONE...


BEING A BAD GUY DOESN'T SUIT YOU.
YOU WERE FOOLED BY A STUPID LIE ABOUT YOUR GUN EXPLODING IF YOU SHOT IT WITH MY FINGER STUCK IN THE MUZZLE.
All it would've done is blow off that finger

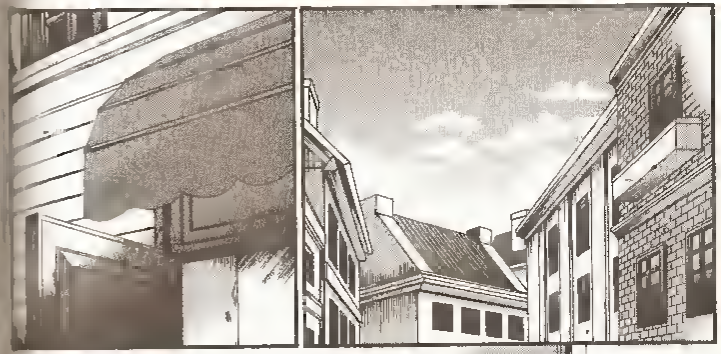

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? I WANT TO BE THE STAR SOME-TIMES!
I DON'T WANT TO BE AN EXTRA ALL MY LIFE!!
SO YOU DECIDED TO TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE?

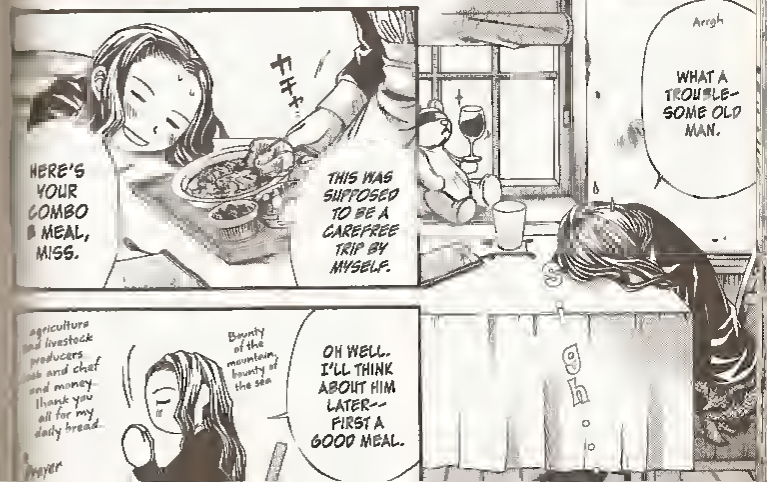

WHAT'S HE UP TO?
IT'S THAT OLD MAN.
HUH?

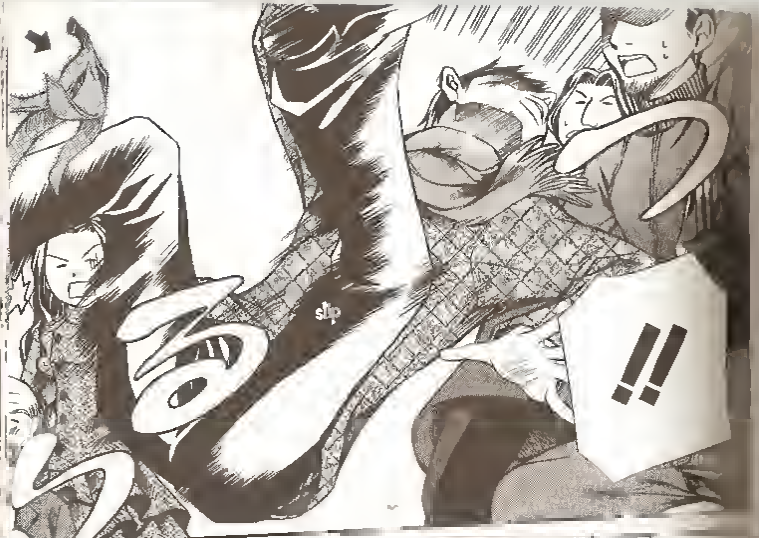

HE'S AT IT AGAIN!
SIR, YOUR CHECK!

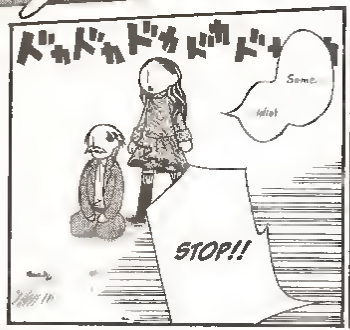

THAT STUPID OLD MAN!!
HE'S WITH ME. I'LL PAY FOR HIM.
WAIT A MINUTE!
A CUSTOMER DIDN'T PAY?! GET MY GUN!!
MANAGER!!
OOH...
OOOOH ...
SORRY.
WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO SOONER!

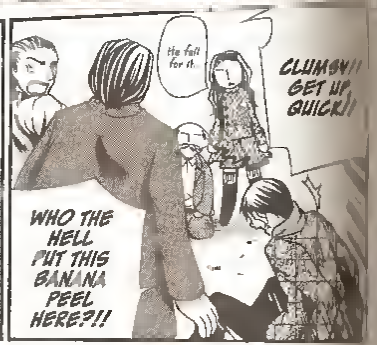
HE DIDN'T GET IT AT ALL.
OH, DANG.
I MUST BEGIN WITH SMALL TASKS...
...AND STEADILY GAIN EXPERIENCE!!

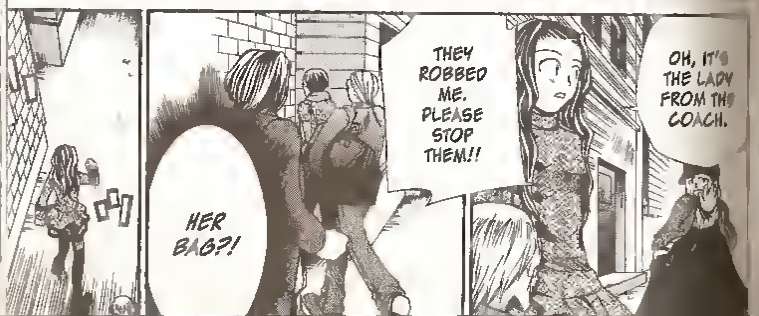


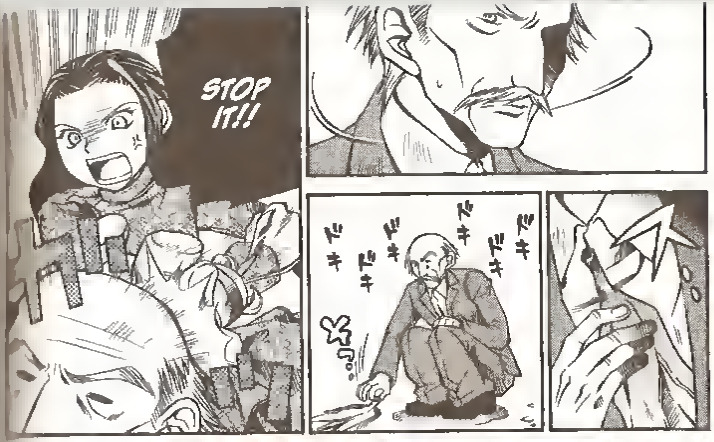

HERE'S YOUR COMBO D MEAL, MISS.
THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A CAREFREE TRIP BY MYSELF.
Arrgh
WHAT A TROUBLESOME OLD MAN.
agriculture and livestock producers, cook and chef and money. Thank you all for my daily bread.
Bounty of the mountain, bounty of the sea
OH WELL. I'LL THINK ABOUT HIM LATER-- FIRST A GOOD MEAL.


!!
slip


ドゥドゥドゥドゥドゥ
Some idiot
STOP!!


He fell for it.
CLUMSY! GET UP, QUICK!!
WHO THE HELL PUT THIS BANANA PEEL HERE?!!


HER BAG?!
THEY ROBBED ME. PLEASE STOP THEM!!
OH, IT'S THE LADY FROM THE COACH.


STOP IT!!
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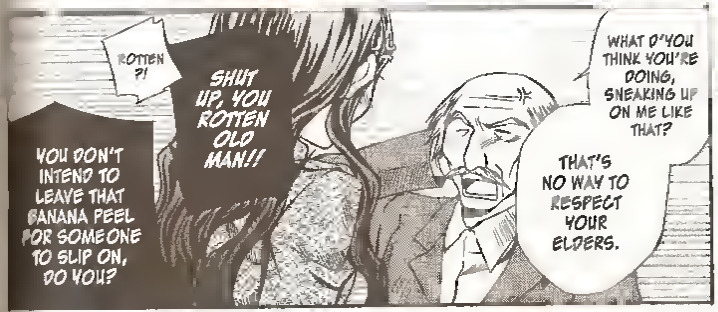
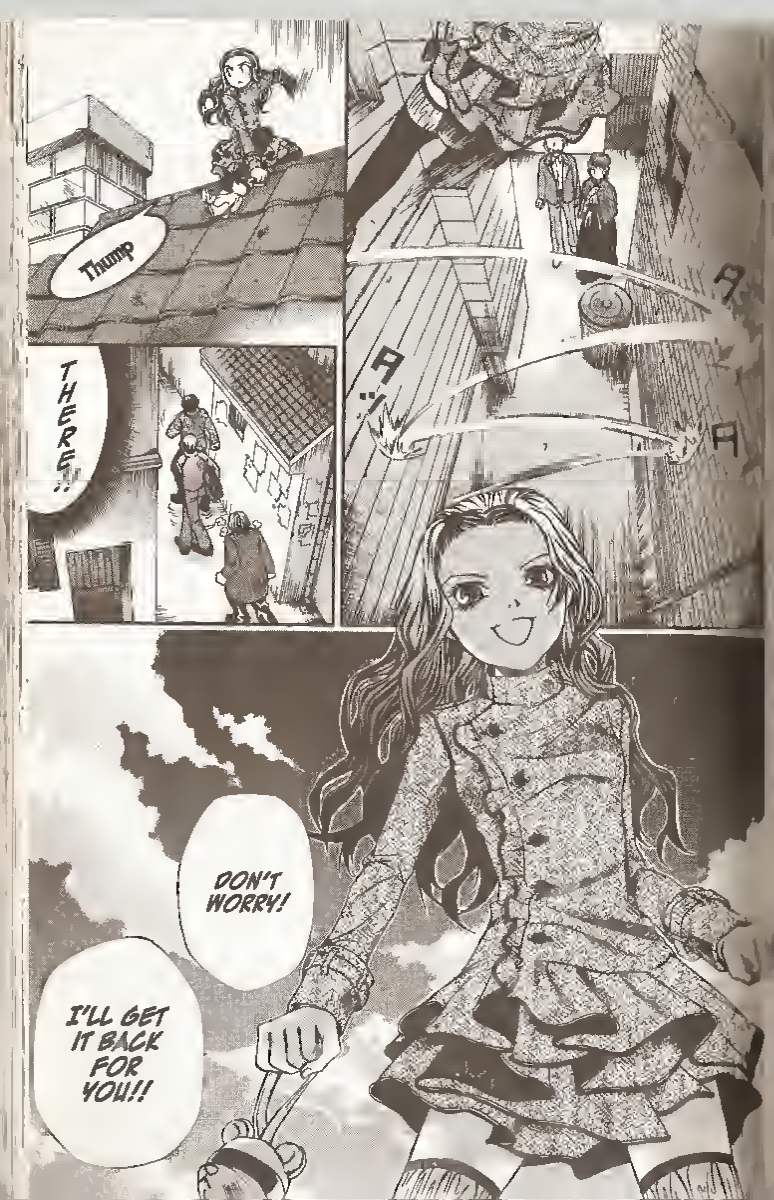
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
ムニュ

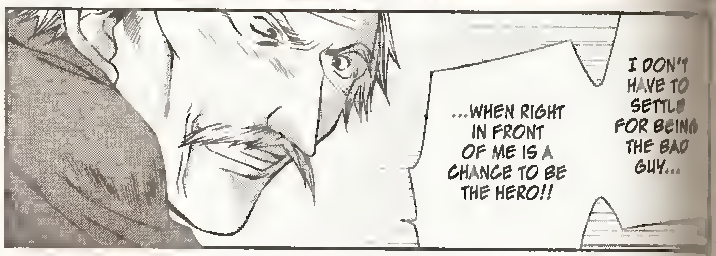

ROTTEN ?!
SHUT UP, YOU ROTTEN OLD MAN!!
WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, SNEAKING UP ON ME LIKE THAT?
YOU DON'T INTEND TO LEAVE THAT BANANA PEEL FOR SOMEONE TO SLIP ON, DO YOU?
THAT'S NO WAY TO RESPECT YOUR ELDERS.

ドゥドゥドゥドゥドゥ
I did not!
BESIDES, WHO'S GONNA BE STUPID ENOUGH TO FALL FOR A DUMB TRICK LIKE THAT?!!
DO YOU HAVE ESP? DID YOU READ MY MIND?!
HOW DID YOU KNOW?!
ドゥドゥドゥドゥドゥ

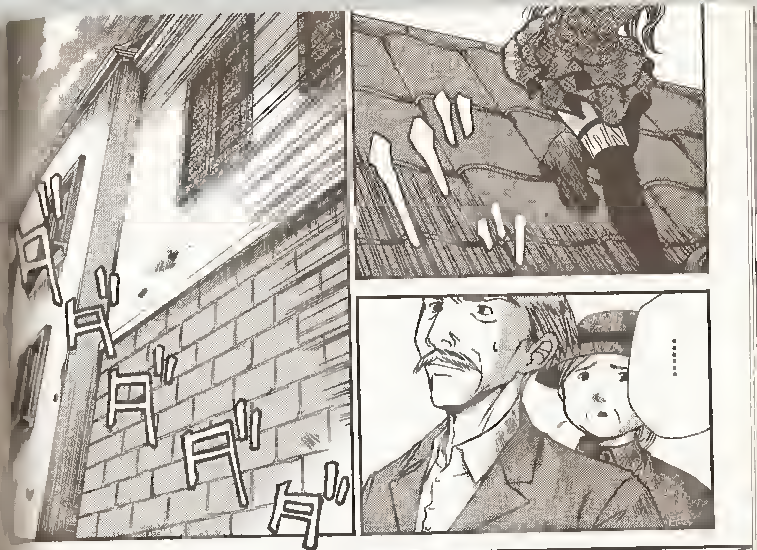

THUMP
THERE!!
DON'T WORRY!
I'LL GET IT BACK FOR YOU!!

?!
OH...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. THERE WASN'T ANYTHING REALLY VALUABLE.
LET'S KEEP LOOKING.
THEY CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. THANKS ANYWAY.
YOUNG LADY?
...IS MY GRANDCHILD'S PRESENT.
THE ONLY THING I'M SORRY TO LOSE...

OLD MAN?!
LEAVE THE BAG TO ME!!
HEY, YOU-- STOP!!


I DON'T HAVE TO SETTLE FOR BEING THE BAD GUY...
...WHEN RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME IS A CHANCE TO BE THE HERO!!

I WON'T LET GO!!
ARE YOU CRAZY, OLD MAN?!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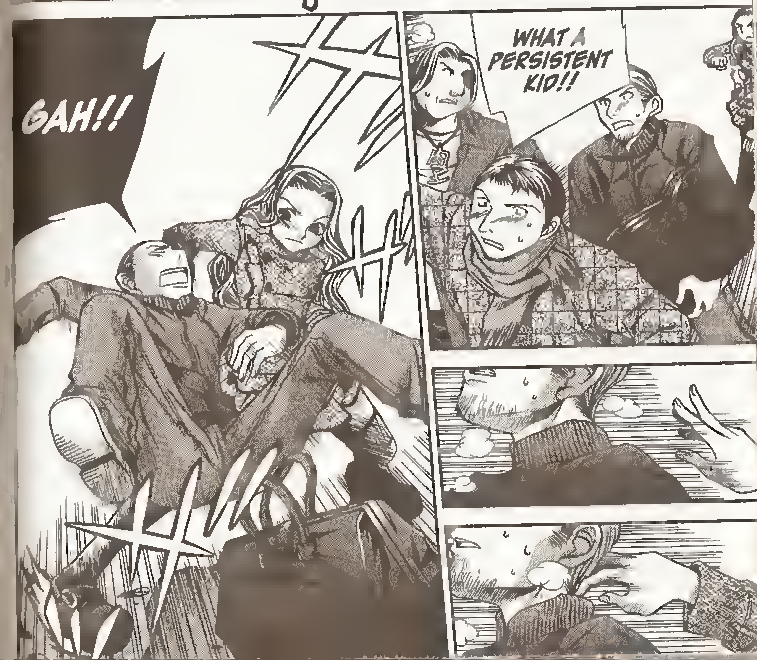
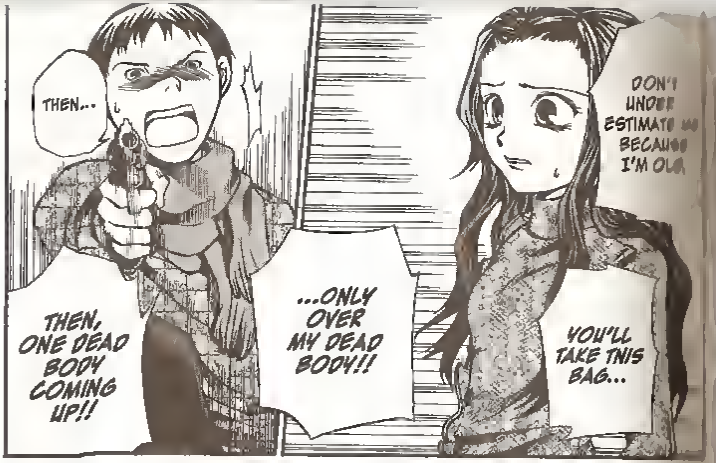
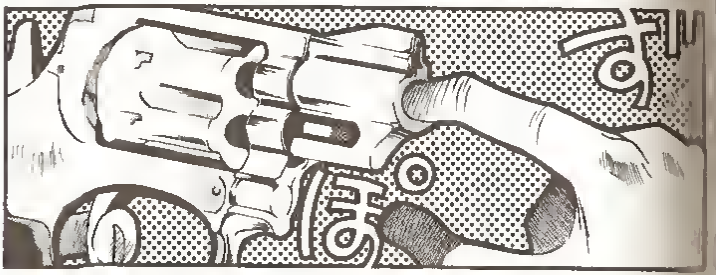
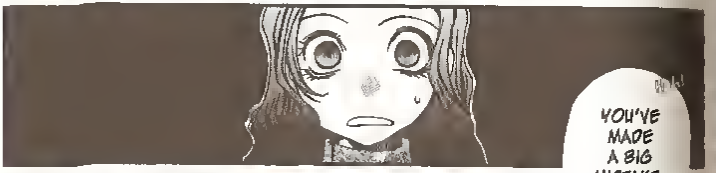
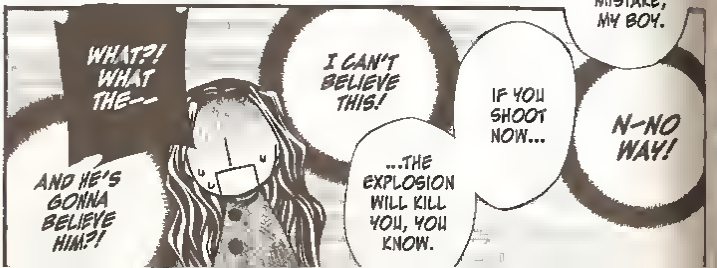

GAH!!
WHAT A PERSISTENT KID!!

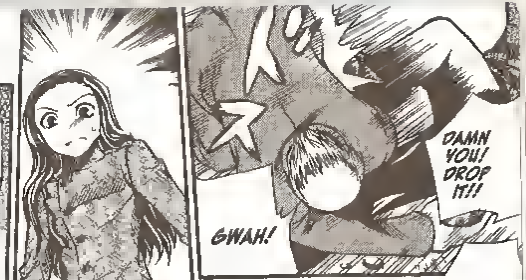

THEN...
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME BECAUSE I'M OLD.
THEN, ONE DEAD BODY COMING UP!!
...ONLY OVER MY DEAD BODY!!
YOU'LL TAKE THIS BAG...

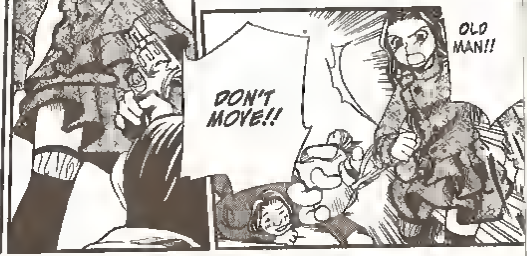


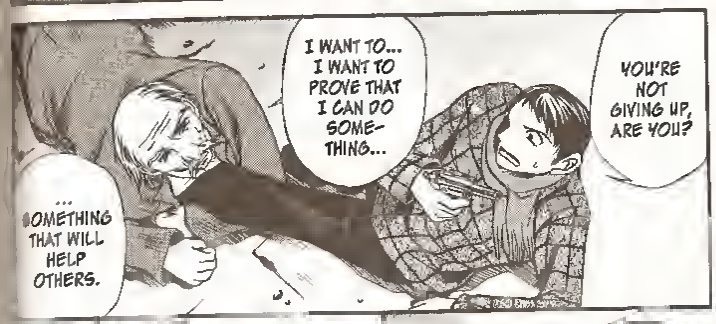

Gulp!


WHAT?! WHAT THE--
AND HE'S GONNA BELIEVE HIM?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
...THE EXPLOSION WILL KILL YOU, YOU KNOW.
IF YOU SHOOT NOW...
YOU'VE MADE A BIG MISTAKE, MY BOY.
N-NO WAY!

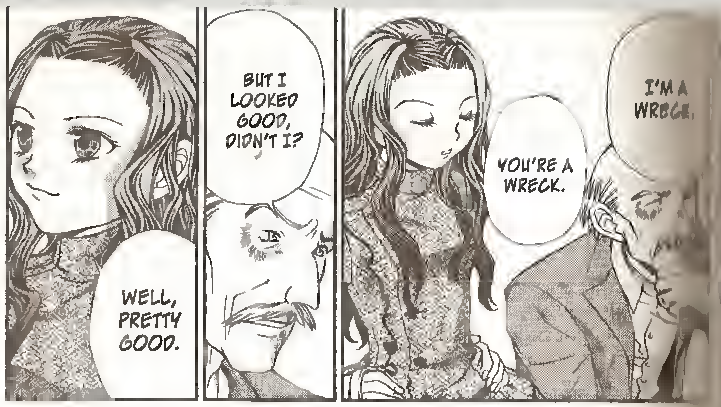
DON'T GET INVOLVED.
I'LL FINISH THIS.


DAMN YOU! DROP IT!!
GWAH!


OLD MAN!!
DON'T MOVE!!


I WANT TO... I WANT TO PROVE THAT I CAN DO SOMETHING...
YOU'RE NOT GIVING UP, ARE YOU?
...SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP OTHERS.

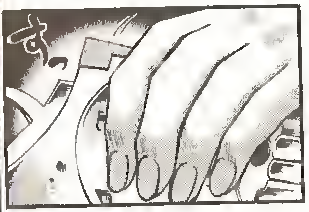
I WANT TO KNOW THAT I MEANT SOMETHING TO THIS WORLD!!
I WANT TO BE PRAISED. I WANT TO BE RESPECTED. I WANT TO BE NOTICED.
I WANT TO BE FLATTERED.

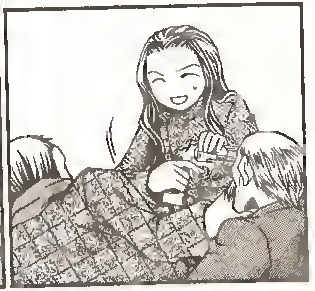

WELL, PRETTY GOOD.
BUT I LOOKED GOOD, DIDN'T I?
YOU'RE A WRECK.
I'M A WRECK.

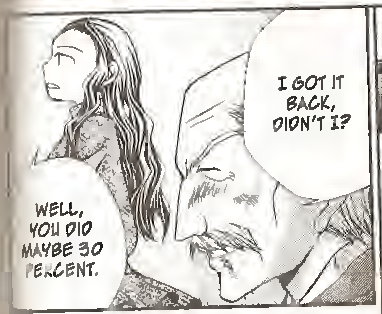
I'M THE BEST-LOOKING...
...HERO EVER, AIN'T I?

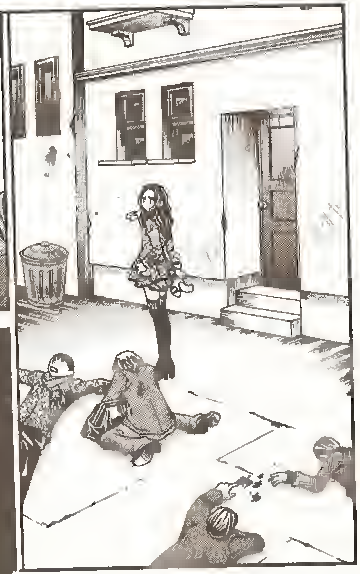
--!! I'VE HAD ENOUGH!!

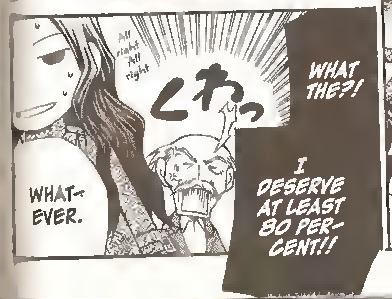
THANKS FOR BEING STUPID.



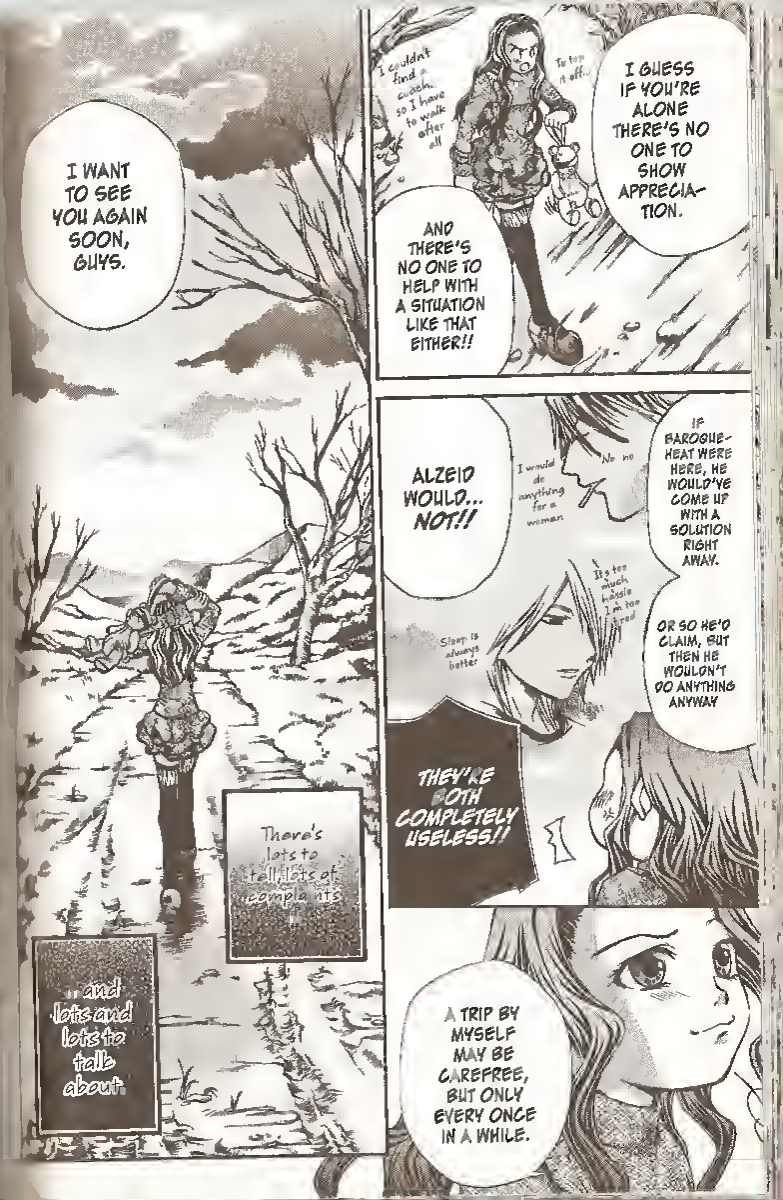



I GOT IT BACK, DIDN'T I?
WELL, YOU DID MAYBE 30 PERCENT.

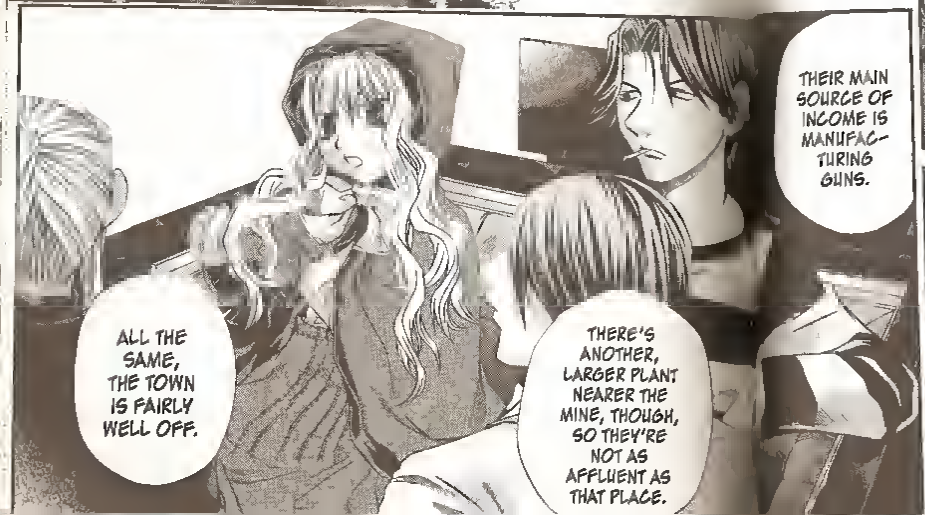


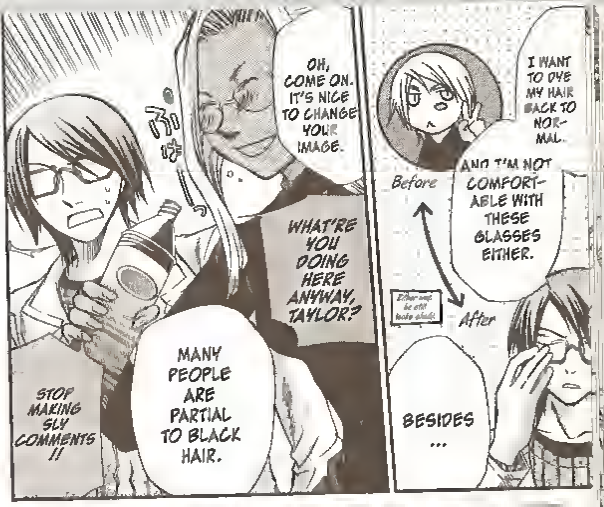

All right! All right
WHAT-EVER.
WHAT THE?!
I DESERVE AT LEAST 80 PER-CENT!!

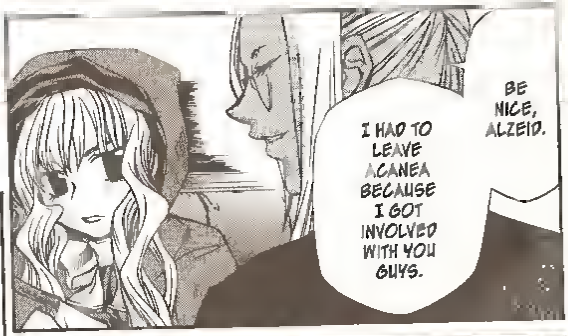
AND YOUR NAME WAS...
... SAIVAH? WAS THAT IT?
AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE, OUR RELATIONSHIP IS PURELY BUSINESS.
I TAKE CARE OF HER DAILY NEEDS.
YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVEN'T TRIED ANYTHING INAPPROPRIATE WITH HER?
LET ME ASK YOU AGAIN, WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR DARLING LITTLE BRANOWEN?
STOP YOUR VULGAR QUESTIONING, YOU JERK!!
YOU DARE TOUCH OUR FAMILY'S PRINCESS, OUR ULTIMATE IDOL OF A GIRL?!!
HMM, TAKE CARE? HOW AND WHERE? WITH THOSE SMELLY HANDS?
WHY DON'T YOU GUYS DROP THE SUBJECT ALREADY?


I WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON, GUYS.
There's lots to tell lots of complaints
... and lots and lots to talk about.
I GUESS IF YOU'RE ALONE THERE'S NO ONE TO SHOW APPRECIATION.
To top it off...
I couldn't find a switch, so I have to walk after all
AND THERE'S NO ONE TO HELP WITH A SITUATION LIKE THAT EITHER!!
ALZEID WOULD... NOT!!
I would do anything for a woman
No no
IF BAROGUE-HEAT WERE HERE, HE WOULD'VE COME UP WITH A SOLUTION RIGHT AWAY.
It's too much hassle I'm too tired
Sleep is always better
OR SO HE'D CLAIM, BUT THEN HE WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING ANYWAY
THEY'RE BOTH COMPLETELY USELESS!!
A TRIP BY MYSELF MAY BE CAREFREE, BUT ONLY EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.

THE TOWN OF PROMETHEUS.

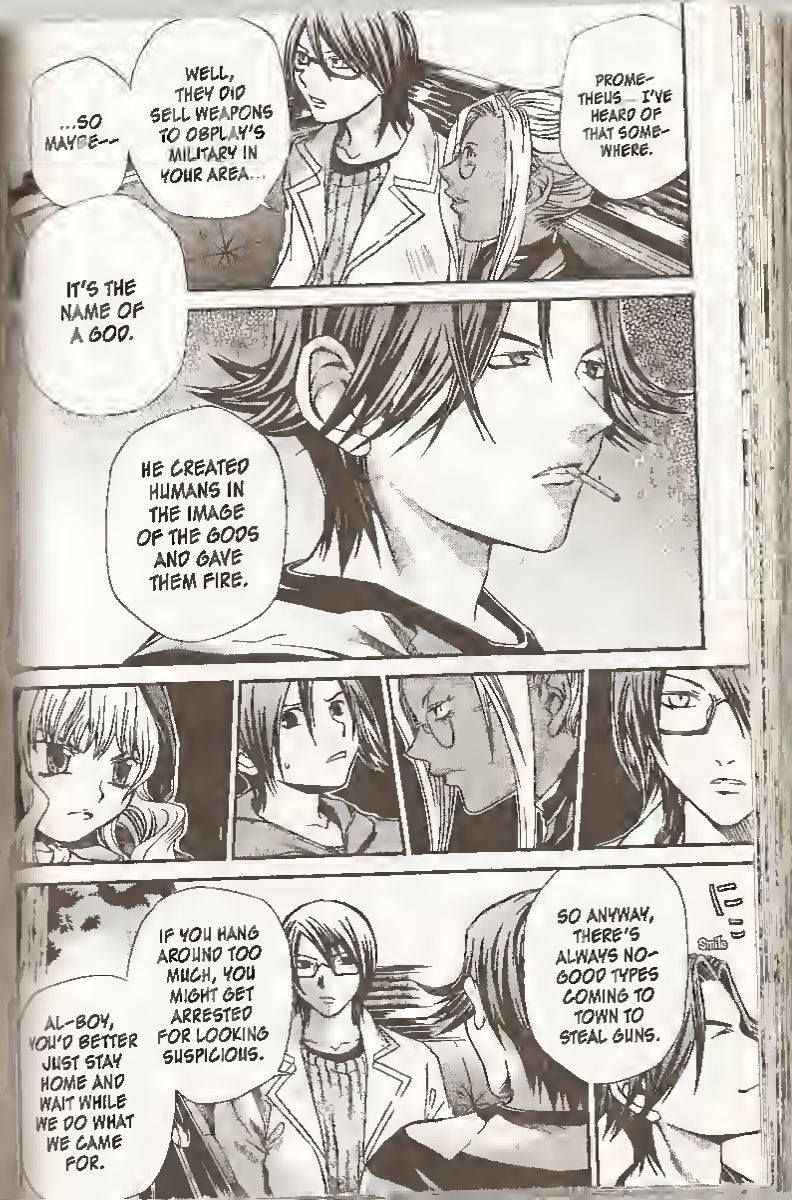

ALL THE SAME, THE TOWN IS FAIRLY WELL OFF.
THERE'S ANOTHER, LARGER PLANT NEARER THE MINE, THOUGH, SO THEY'RE NOT AS AFFLUENT AS THAT PLACE.
THEIR MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME IS MANUFACTURING GUNS.

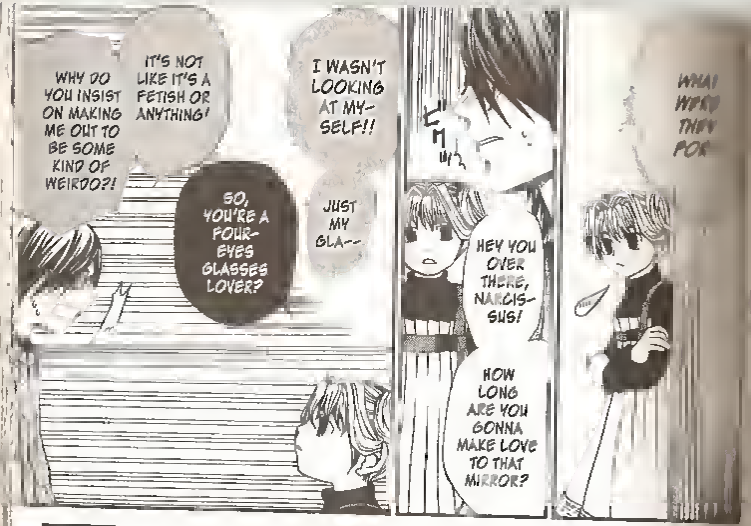

OH, COME ON. IT'S NICE TO CHANGE YOUR IMAGE.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE ANYWAY, TAYLOR?
MANY PEOPLE ARE PARTIAL TO BLACK HAIR.
STOP MAKING SLY COMMENTS !!
I WANT TO DYE MY HAIR BACK TO NORMAL.
AND I'M NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THESE GLASSES EITHER.
Before
After
BESIDES ...


I HAD TO LEAVE ACANEA BECAUSE I GOT INVOLVED WITH YOU GUYS.
BE NICE, ALZEID.

THERE... YOU CAN SEE IT NOW.
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL BE PARTING WAYS ONCE WE REACH TOWN.

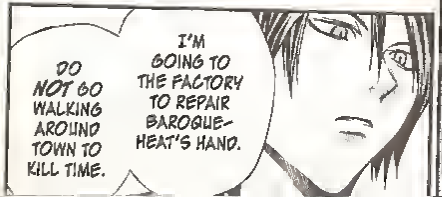
Chapter 51: The Name of a Sinful God— Part 1: The Town of Prometheus


PROME-THEUS... I'VE HEARD OF THAT SOME-WHERE.
WELL, THEY DID SELL WEAPONS TO OBPLAY'S MILITARY IN YOUR AREA...
...SO MAYBE--
IT'S THE NAME OF A GOD.
HE CREATED HUMANS IN THE IMAGE OF THE GODS AND GAVE THEM FIRE.
SO ANYWAY, THERE'S ALWAYS NO-GOOD TYPES COMING TO TOWN TO STEAL GUNS.
Smile
IF YOU HANG AROUND TOO MUCH, YOU MIGHT GET ARRESTED FOR LOOKING SUSPICIOUS.
AL-BOY, YOU'D BETTER JUST STAY HOME AND WAIT WHILE WE DO WHAT WE CAME FOR.

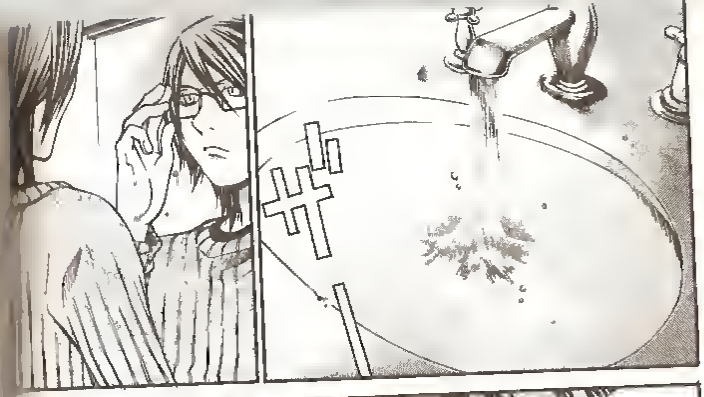

WHY DO YOU INSIST ON MAKING ME OUT TO BE SOME KIND OF WEIRDO?!
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S A FETISH OR ANYTHING!
SO, YOU'RE A POOR-EYES GLASSES LOVER?
I WASN'T LOOKING AT MY-SELF!!
JUST MY GLA--
HEY YOU OVER THERE, NARCIS-SUS!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA MAKE LOVE TO THAT MIRROR?
WHAT WERE THEY FOR

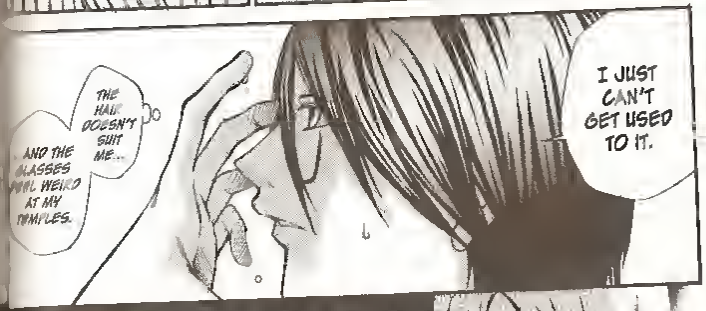
YOU DON'T NEED A DISGUISE IN THE HOUSE.
TAKE THEM OFF.

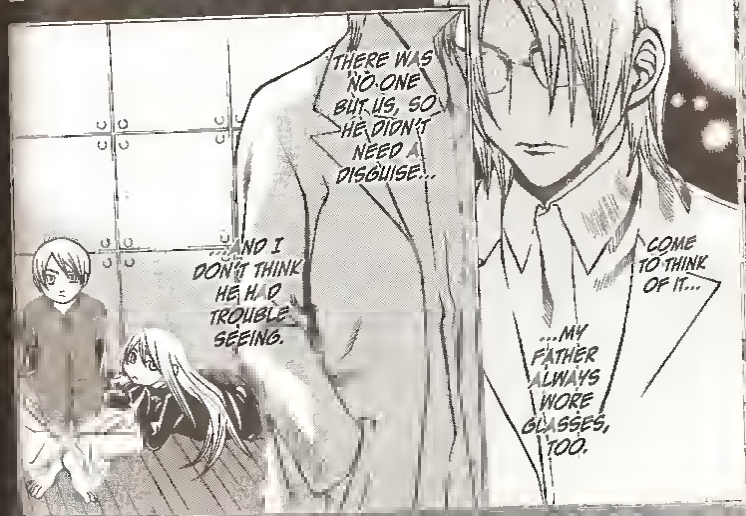
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
HERE, BEND DOWN A BIT.


I'M GOING TO THE FACTORY TO REPAIR BAROQUE-HEAT'S HAND.
DO NOT GO WALKING AROUND TOWN TO KILL TIME.

WHAT?
JUST DO IT.

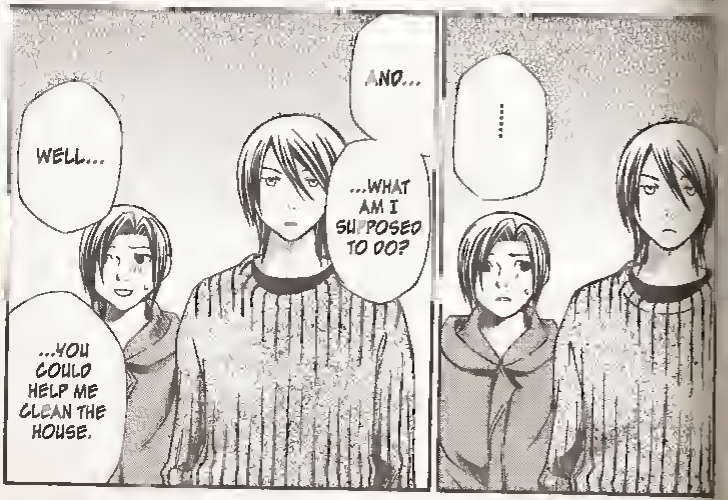


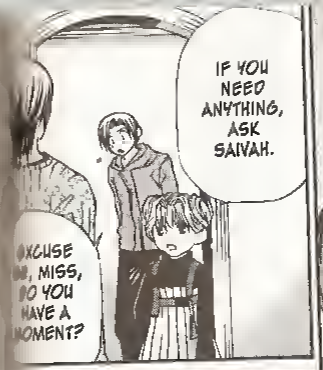

I JUST CAN'T GET USED TO IT.
THE HAIR DOESN'T SUIT ME...
AND THE GLASSES KEEP WEIRD AT MY TEMPLES.


THERE WAS NO ONE BUT US, SO HE DIDN'T NEED A DISGUISE...
...AND I DON'T THINK HE HAD TROUBLE SEEING.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...MY FATHER ALWAYS WORE GLASSES, TOO.

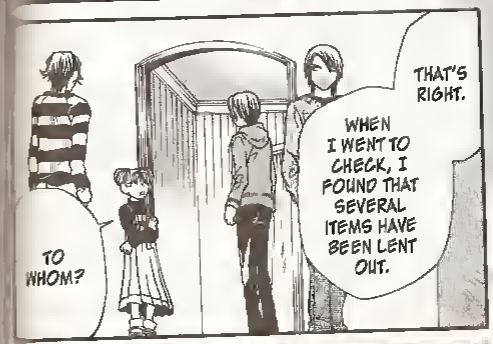
I'LL BE GOOD...
NEITHER!!
I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU ASK!
DON'T BE IMPOSSIBLE.
drag
drag
drag
THEN LISTEN TO ME AND BE GOOD NOW.

WHAT? TO HIS HOUSE?
NOT ME!!
WE'LL HAVE TO GO GET THEM BAROQUE HEAT.
DON'T BE AN IDIOT.
WHAT WOULD YOU RATHER DO: GO GET THE TOOLS SO WE CAN FINISH QUICKLY, OR WAIT FOR HIM TO GET AROUND TO RETURNING THEM?

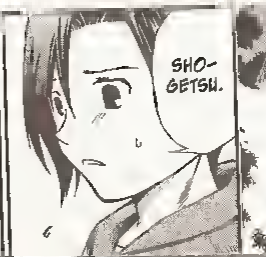

AND...
WELL...
...WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
...YOU COULD HELP ME CLEAN THE HOUSE.
.....


IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, ASK SAIVAH.
EXCUSE ME, MISS, DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?

WE HAVE A SLIGHT PROBLEM.

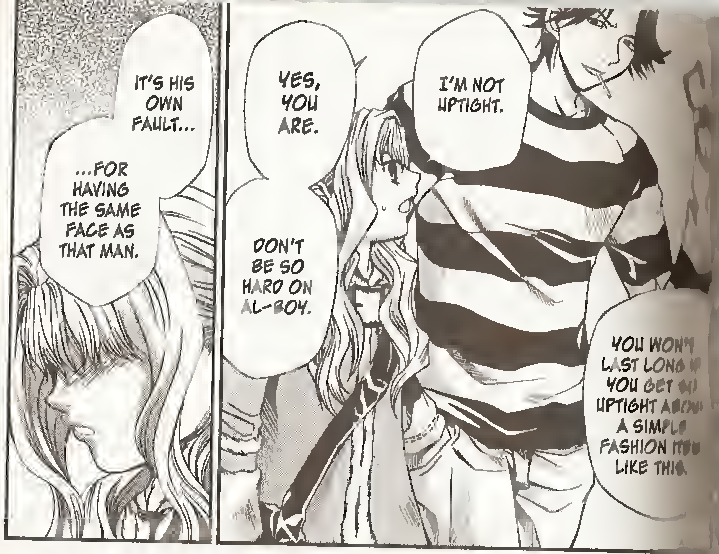

THAT'S RIGHT.
WHEN I WENT TO CHECK, I FOUND THAT SEVERAL ITEMS HAVE BEEN LENT OUT.
TO WHOM?

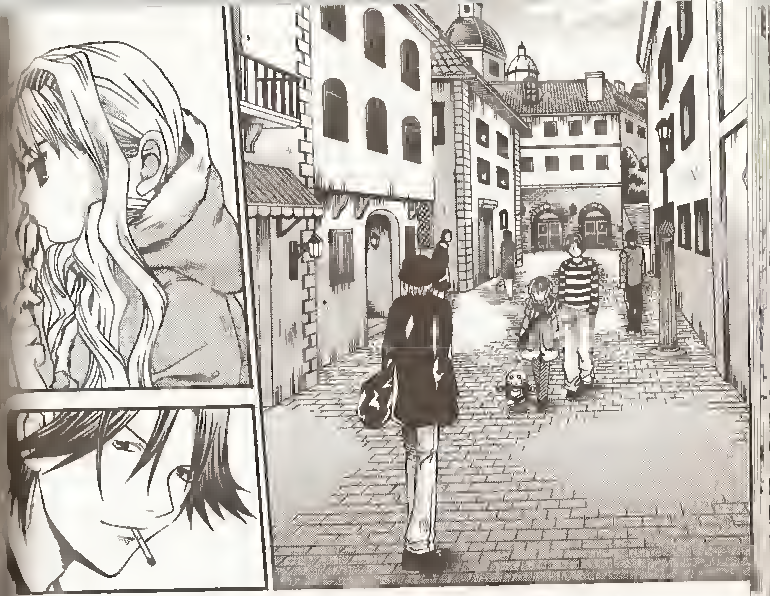
THAT BRAT?


SHO-GETSU.

HOUSE ARREST?
WOULD YOU PREFER A PRISON CELL?
IT'S ALL THE SAME TO ME. JUST DON'T MAKE ANY MORE TROUBLE FOR US.
BY THE WAY, THIS HOUSE IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SEARCH.

WE HAVEN'T GOT ALL THE TOOLS I'LL NEED?


IT'S HIS OWN FAULT...
...FOR HAVING THE SAME FACE AS THAT MAN.
YES, YOU ARE.
DON'T BE SO HARD ON AL-BOY.
I'M NOT UPTIGHT.
YOU WON'T LAST LONG IF YOU GET SO UPTIGHT ABOUT A SIMPLE FASHION LIKE THIS.



YOU KNOW, A ROCKET PUNCH OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER HIGH-PERFORMANCE, LOW-QUALITY OPTIONS.
SAY WHAT?!
LOW ANYTHING IS DEFINITELY A PROBLEM!
BY THE WAY, BARQUE-HEAT
ABOUT YOUR HAND--DO YOU WANT ME TO ADD ANOTHER FUNCTION DURING THE REPAIR?
ANOTHER FUNCTION?
?

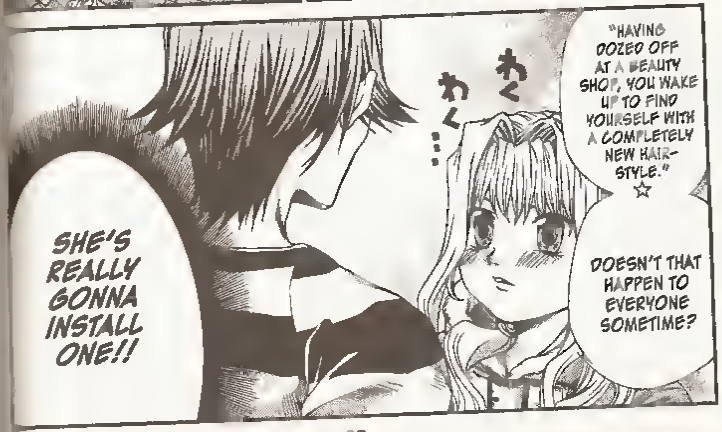
CAN I BE THEM?
HUH?
OH!
SO, YOU BROUGHT THEM ALONG?
GOOD GRIEF!
SO HARSH.
HOW DO I LOOK?

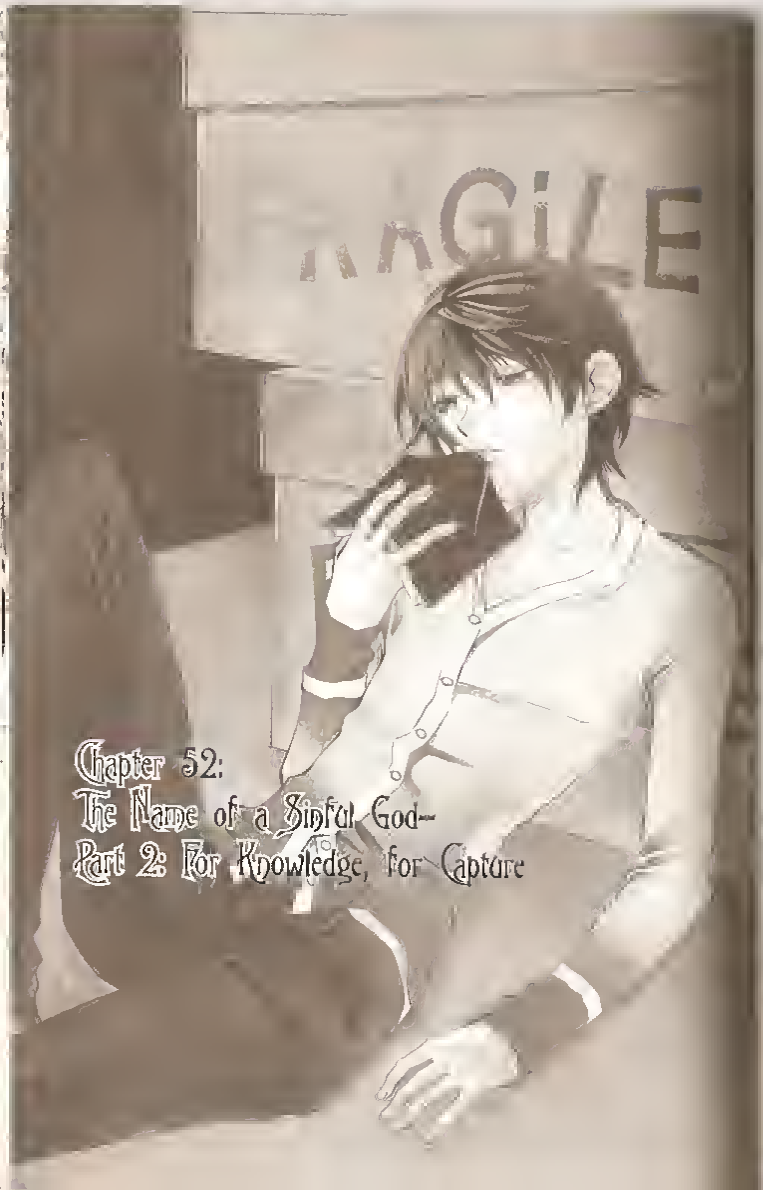
WAIT UP, ALZEID
I'M THE ONE WHO'LL GO IN TROUBLE WITH THE MISO
HEY, ALZEID!!

I'M NOT SURE I LIKE THE SOUND OF HAVING MY HAND BLOWN OFF SOME-WHERE.
AND YOUR HAND SHOOTS OUT, YOU KNOW?! YOUR OWN HAND!!
WELL, MAYBE IT'S GOT A COOL SOUND EFFECT, BUT--
D-DON'T YOU DARE INSULT THE ROCKET PUNCH!!
IT'S TOTALLY COOL! KAPOW!! OR WHAM!!

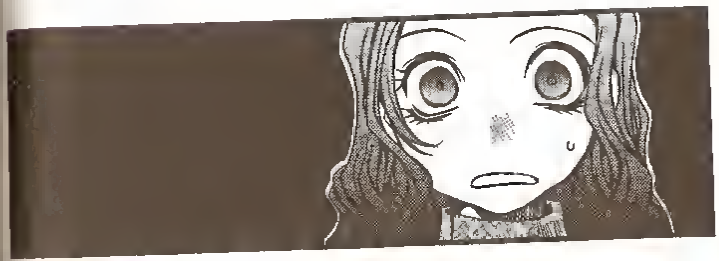
BY THE ...ON A ...PLETELY ...FFERENT ...JECT--

Well...
FORGET ABOUT IT. I WAS ONLY JOKING.
OF COURSE!! WHO WOULD ACTUALLY INSTALL SUCH A JUVENILE...
OF COURSE YOU WERE!

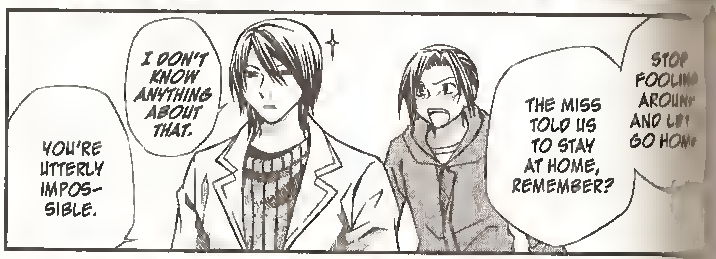

わくわく...
"HAVING DOZED OFF AT A BEAUTY SHOP, YOU WAKE UP TO FIND YOURSELF WITH A COMPLETELY NEW HAIR-STYLE." ☆
DOESN'T THAT HAPPEN TO EVERYONE SOMETIME?
SHE'S REALLY GONNA INSTALL ONE!!

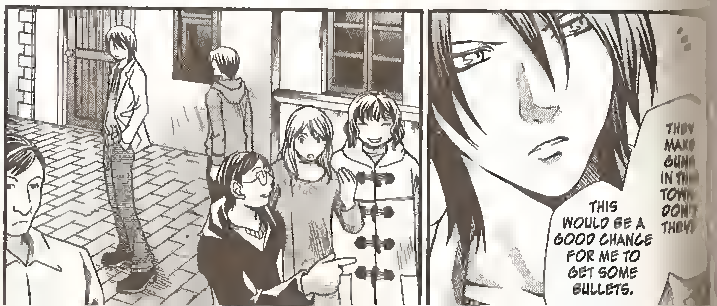


Chapter 52:
The Name of a Sinful God--
Part 2: For Knowledge, for Capture



BE QUIET, THOMAS.
STOP FOLLOWING ME AROUND.
ALZEID!
HEY, ALZEID!!
DON'T MAKE UP NAMES FOR PEOPLE.
MY NAME IS SAIVAH. SAIVAH SALVARIITO.
UH-HUH. THOMAS X SAIVAH.
All right
WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN?
It's not all right


I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.
YOU'RE UTTERLY IMPOS-SIBLE.
THE MISS TOLD US TO STAY AT HOME, REMEMBER?
STOP FOOLING AROUND AND LET'S GO HOME

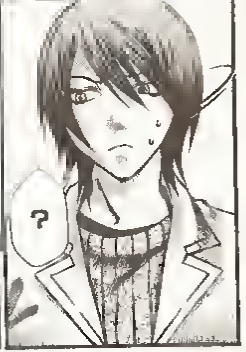

THIS WOULD BE A GOOD CHANCE FOR ME TO GET SOME BULLETS.
THEY MAKE GUNS IN THIS TOWN, DON'T THEY?

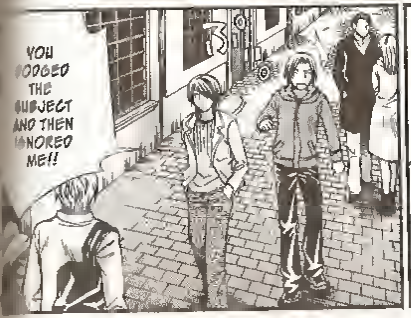
I forgot to draw Kotetsu this time...
But he's so small...
Yoohoo!
Where are you, Kotetsu?!

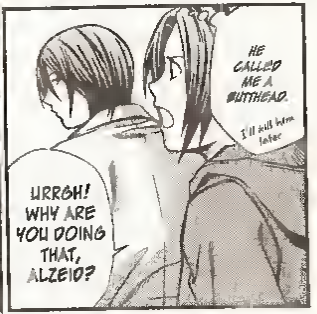
THIS IS ALL THE DATA I WAS ABLE TO PRODUCE...
...WITH THE EQUIPMENT YOU PROVIDED--SECTIONAL PHOTOS, ECG, ETC.

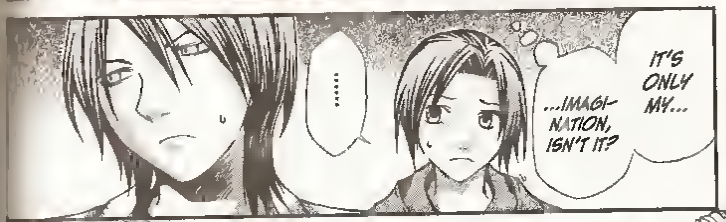
BLOOD AND TISSUE SAMPLES WERE LOST DURING THE ATTACK IN AGANEA.
THAT WAS DUE TO MY NEGLIGENCE. I APOLOGIZE.
AREN'T THERE A FEW THINGS MISSING?

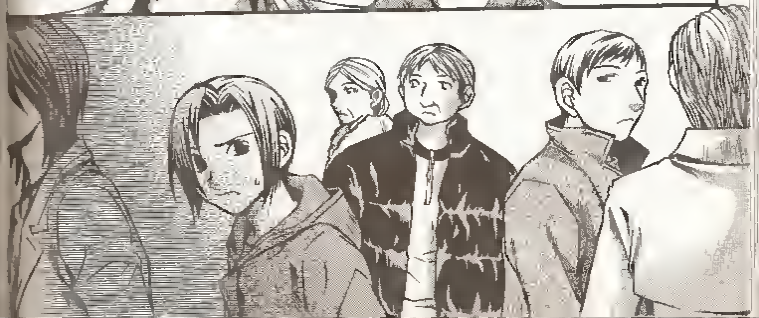
HEY, THOMAS
1/2...
ONE-HALF?!
HALF OF THOMAS IS STILL THOMAS.
STOP IT!
STOP [illegible] THOMAS THING, BUTT-HEAD!!

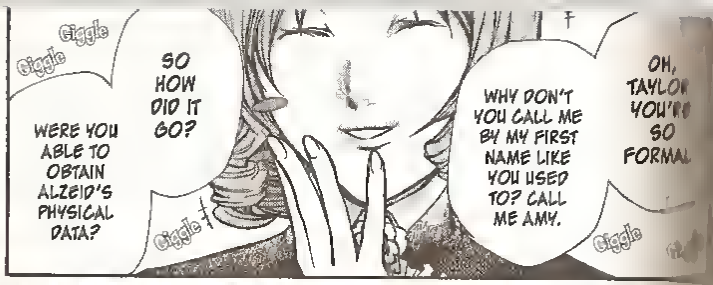

?

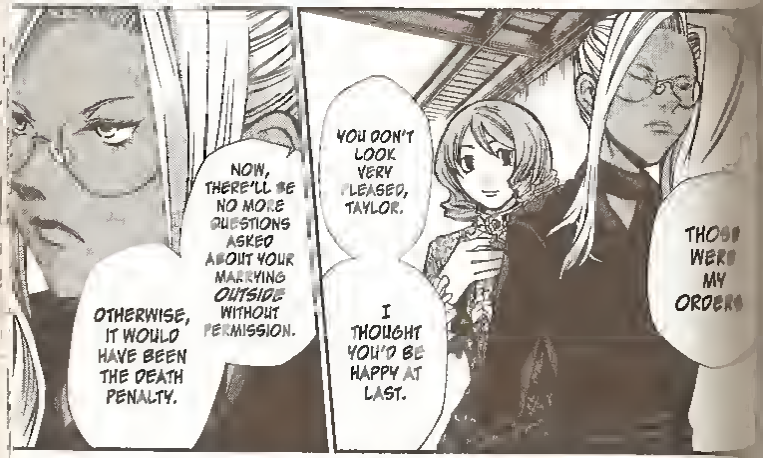

YOU DODGED THE SUBJECT AND THEN IGNORED ME!!

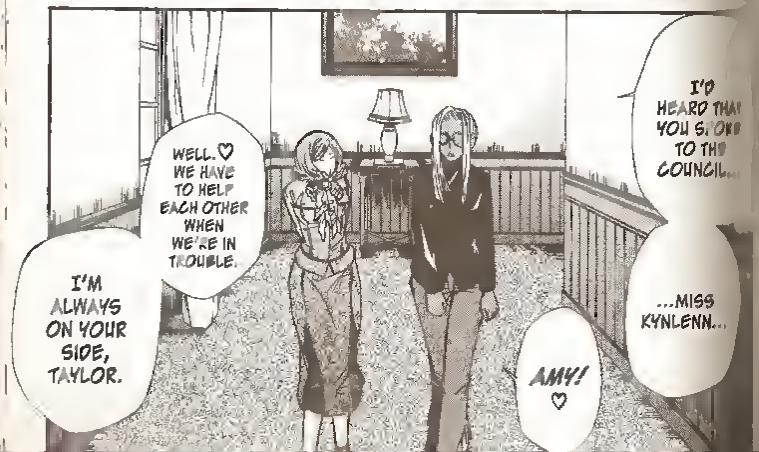

HE CALLED ME A BUTTHEAD.
I'll kill him later.
URRGH! WHY ARE YOU DOING THAT, ALZEIO?

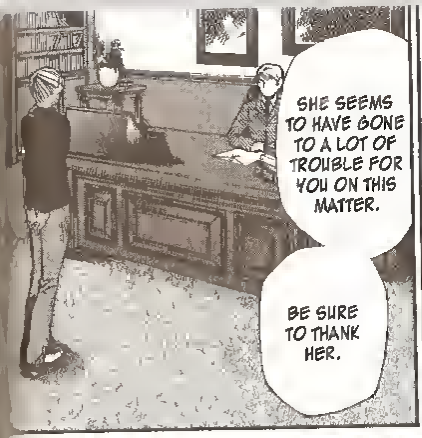

IT'S ONLY MY...
...IMAGINATION, ISN'T IT?
.....

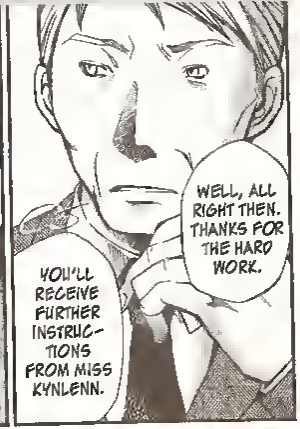



Giggle
Giggle
SO HOW DID IT GO?
WERE YOU ABLE TO OBTAIN ALZEID'S PHYSICAL DATA?
Giggle
WHY DON'T YOU CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME LIKE YOU USED TO? CALL ME AMY.
OH, TAYLOR YOU'RE SO FORMAL
Giggle

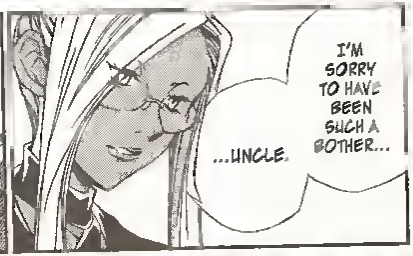

NOW, THERE'LL BE NO MORE QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT YOUR MARRYING OUTSIDE WITHOUT PERMISSION.
OTHERWISE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE DEATH PENALTY.
YOU DON'T LOOK VERY PLEASED, TAYLOR.
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HAPPY AT LAST.
THOSE WERE MY ORDERS

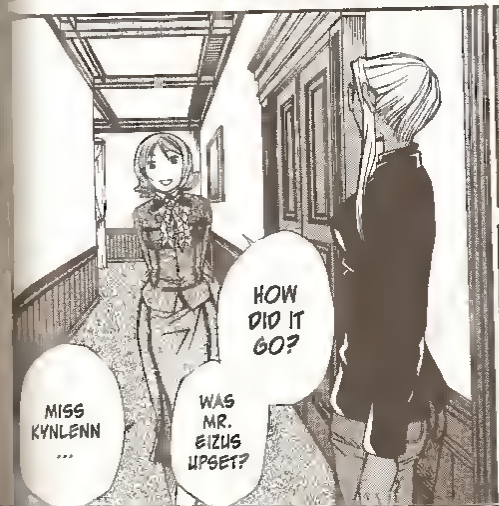

I'M ALWAYS ON YOUR SIDE, TAYLOR.
WELL.♡ WE HAVE TO HELP EACH OTHER WHEN WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
I'D HEARD THAT YOU SPOKE TO THE COUNCIL...
...MISS KYNLENN...
AMY! ♡

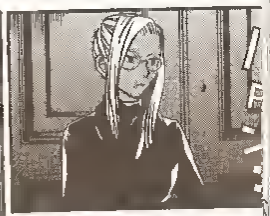

SHE SEEMS TO HAVE GONE TO A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR YOU ON THIS MATTER.
BE SURE TO THANK HER.


WELL, ALL RIGHT THEN. THANKS FOR THE HARD WORK.
YOU'LL RECEIVE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM MISS KYNLENN.

YOU MAY GO NOW.

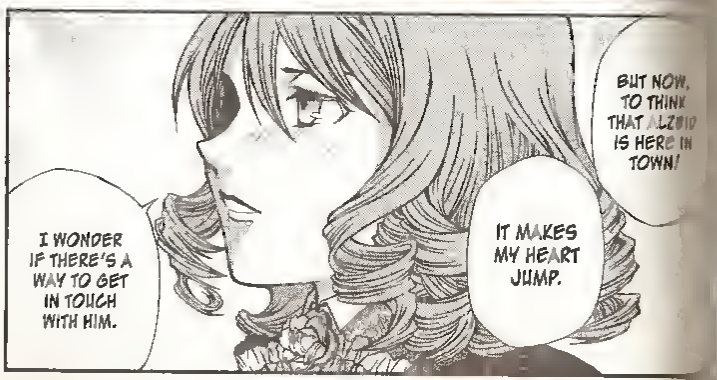

...UNCLE.
I'M SORRY TO HAVE BEEN SUCH A BOTHER...

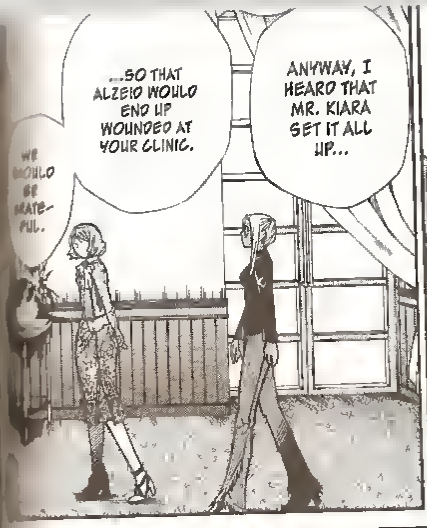

MISS KYNLENN ...
WAS MR. EIZUS UPSET?
HOW DID IT GO?



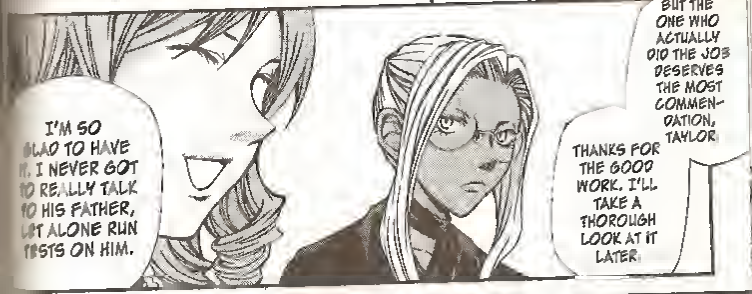
TAYLOR.

AND THEN SUDDENLY HE WAS DEAD, AND WE COULDN'T EVEN FIND HIS BODY.
NO "MR." FOR HIM?
WE THOUGHT WE COULD AT LEAST TINKER WITH THE CHILD, BUT THEN THAT BAROQUEHEAT...
TO HIS FACE, OF COURSE!
SO THAT BAROQUE-HEAT...
...WAS MADE HIS MONITOR DESPITE THE OPPOSITION IN THE COUNCIL, AND WE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING!


BUT NOW, TO THINK THAT ALZEID IS HERE IN TOWN!
IT MAKES MY HEART JUMP.
I WONDER IF THERE'S A WAY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM.

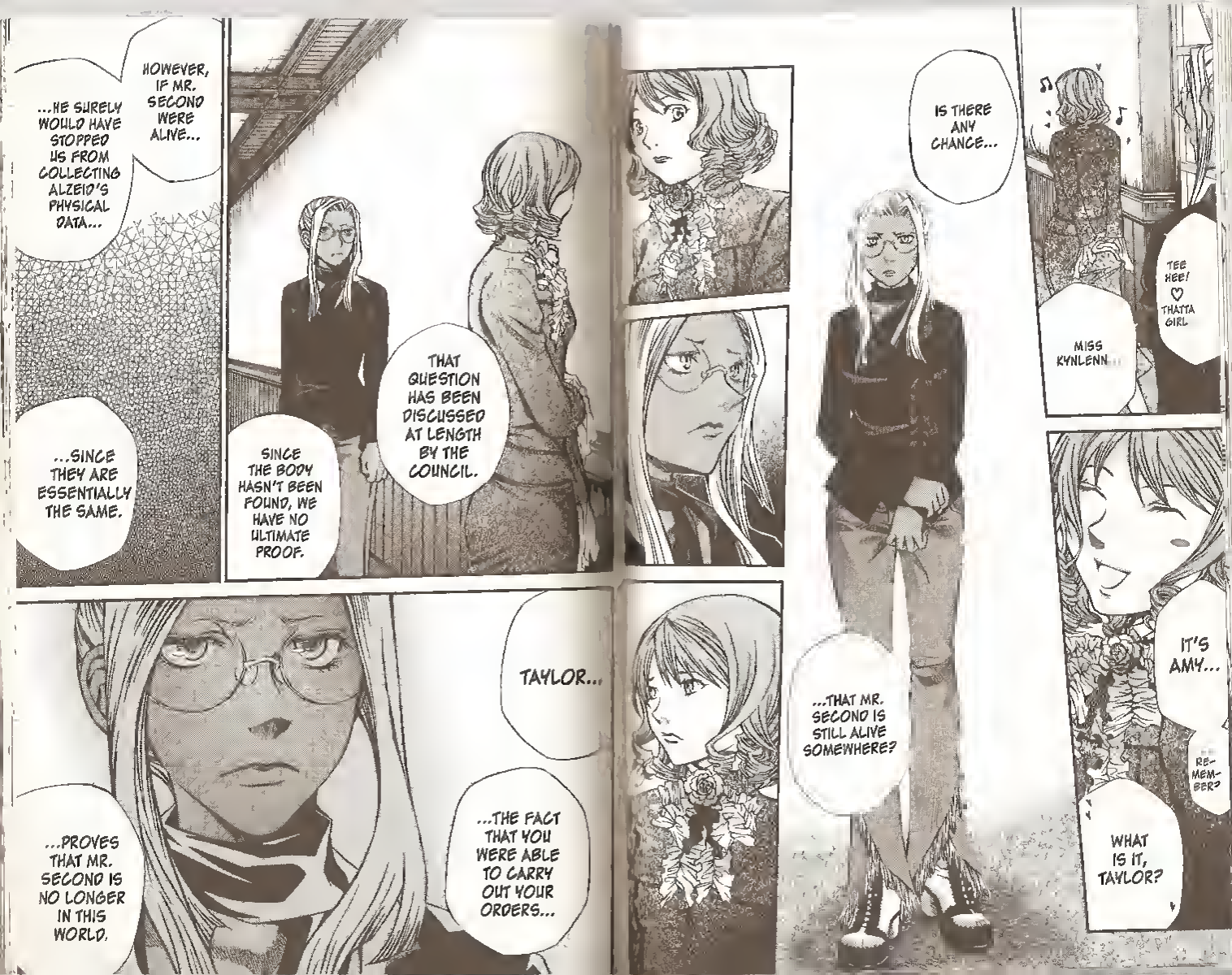

...SO THAT ALZEID WOULD END UP WOUNDED AT YOUR CLINIC.
ANYWAY, I HEARD THAT MR. KIARA SET IT ALL UP...
WE SHOULD BE GRATE-FUL.

I HEARD HE WAS MISSING.
?
THIS IS ALL MR. KIARA'S DOING.
HMM. I'D HEARD THAT TOO.


I'M SO GLAD TO HAVE IT. I NEVER GOT TO REALLY TALK TO HIS FATHER, LET ALONE RUN TESTS ON HIM.
THANKS FOR THE GOOD WORK. I'LL TAKE A THOROUGH LOOK AT IT LATER.
BUT THE ONE WHO ACTUALLY DID THE JOB DESERVES THE MOST COMMEN-DATION, TAYLOR.

INTEREST AND FRIEND-SHIP ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT THINGS.
HOWEVER, HE WAS A RATHER STRANGE CREATURE, THAT MR. SECOND.
NOT AT ALL! I'LL ADMIT THAT I WAS INTERESTED AT ONE TIME.
IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMEONE WHO THINKS YOU'RE JUST EXPERIMENTING ON HIM.

I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY THAT. ♡
BUT YOU REALLY MUST.
...AND MUST OBEY MY ORDERS.
YOU'RE STILL UNDER SURVEIL-LANCE...
OH!
I'M JUST TELLING YOU THAT THE RUMOR'S GOING AROUND.
I RESPECT-FULLY DECLINE.
BUT THIS IS REALLY NO PLACE TO TALK.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE AFTERNOON TEA WITH ME? ♡
...MR. SECOND'S DEATH...
...THEY SAY IT MAY HAVE BEEN SUICIDE.
UM, TAYLOR...
WE CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE THAT, TOO...
OF COURSE WE CAN'T IGNORE THE FACT THAT ALZEID SAYS HE'S LOOKING FOR HIS FATHER'S KILLER.
...BUT I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THAT ANY HUMAN COULD HAVE KILLED HIM.
IT WOULD MAKE SENSE THAT WE CAN'T FIND HIS BODY...
...IF HE'D PLANNED IT THAT WAY.
TAYLOR CANNABIS ...
...WE WILL CONVENE A MEETING TO DISCUSS YOUR FUTURE STATUS.
BE SURE TO BE PRESENT.
IF THAT'S AN ORDER, I SHALL.


...HE SURELY WOULD HAVE STOPPED US FROM COLLECTING ALZEID'S PHYSICAL DATA...
HOWEVER, IF MR. SECOND WERE ALIVE...
...SINCE THEY ARE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME.
SINCE THE BODY HASN'T BEEN FOUND, WE HAVE NO ULTIMATE PROOF.
THAT QUESTION HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH BY THE COUNCIL.
...PROVES THAT MR. SECOND IS NO LONGER IN THIS WORLD.
TAYLOR...
...THE FACT THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO CARRY OUT YOUR ORDERS...
IS THERE ANY CHANCE...
...THAT MR. SECOND IS STILL ALIVE SOMEWHERE?
TEE HEE! ♡ THAT'A GIRL
MISS KYNLENN...
IT'S AMY...
RE-MEM-BER?
WHAT IS IT, TAYLOR?

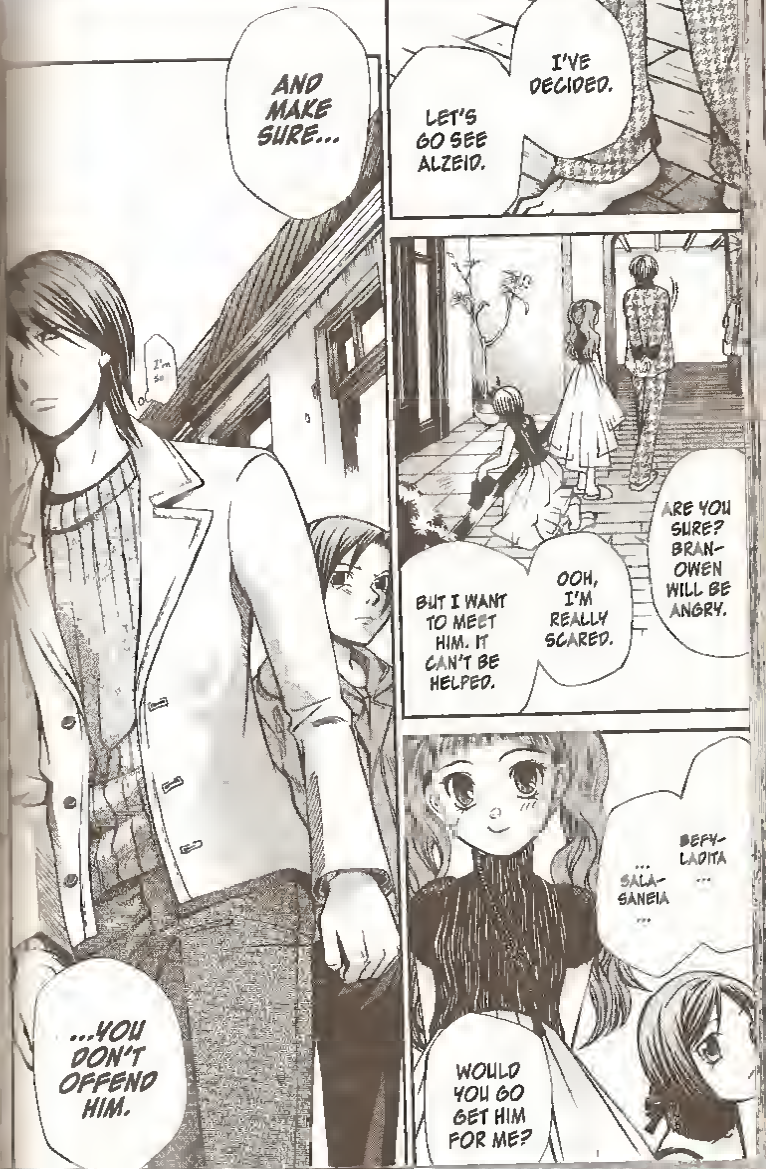
IT'S THE THIRD DAY OF THIS ENNUI PHASE. BUT IS BEING BORED ANY FUN?
I WISH YOU WOULD PUT AN END TO IT. IT'S RATHER DULL.
WELL... ACTUALLY, I THINK IT IS GETTING TO BE A BIT TIRESOME.
Ding Dong
OH! A VISITOR?
I'LL GO GET THE DOOR.
EATING IS SOMETHING. IT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION.
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE DOING NOTHING
YOU CERTAINLY DO WORK HARD AT BEING LAZY
YOU ARE PRETTY LAZY, MASTER SHOGETSU.
I DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING.
I JUST WANT TO MELT LIKE BUTTER.
Play with me
WHY DON'T YOU GO FOR A WALK?
LOUIE AND BARTHOLO WANT ATTENTION FROM YOU.
THIS IS SO BOR ING!
A FEELING?
VISITORS FOR YOU, MASTER SHOGETSU.
VISITORS? WHO?
IT'S JUST A FEELING, BUT--
BUT YOU SEE, I HAVE A FEELING THAT SOON I'M GOING TO BE SO BUSY...
...THAT I WON'T BE ABLE TO SIT AROUND LIKE THIS FOR A WHILE.
DO WHAT YOU WANT, I DON'T CARE, BUT WON'T YOU PLEASE HAVE A BITE TO EAT?
YOU'VE HAD NOTHING BUT WATER FOR THREE DAYS.
YEAH, YOU'LL GET SICK.
IT'S NO GOOD TRYING TO MOTIVATE ME TO DO SOMETHING.
NO. I'M BASKING IN THE ENNUI.
WHAT A TROUBLESOME MOOD. YOU'RE IN THE WAY OF MY CLEANING, SO PLEASE DIE OR SOMETHING.

LOOK!!
THERE'S SOMEONE EVEN BETTER THAN ME OVER THERE!
HUH?
Push
L-LET GO!! LEMME GO!!
O-OH... MASTER SHOGETSU...
MAYBE YOU SHOULD-- HE'S SUFFO-CATING.
SO, WHAT'S UP? WHAT'S THE OCCA SION?
COME INSIDE-- LET'S HAVE TEA. C'MON.
はぁあああああ
HEY!
BEEN A WHILE.
HEY...
BARQUE-HEEEAT!!
NOOO! THIS IS HUMAN SACRIFICE!!!
HOW RUDE. HE SHOULD BE GLAD TO SAVE ME.
I'M SORRY. MY MASTER'S AN IDIOT.
MOVE!!
ドーン
OWW!!
BRAN?!
AND?
IT'S BRANO-WEN
...AND...
BRAAANOWEN! ♡
あはぁ
MMFFFGGH!!
M-MASTER SHO-GE-TSU!!
SHU
YOU MUSTN'T HURRY SO MUCH!!
?!

PLEASE DON'T BE SELFISH.
...BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF INTRODUCING HIM TO YOU ...
...OR ANYONE ELSE IN PROMETHEUS, FOR THAT MATTER.
THEN
BY THE WAY, I'M HERE FOR THE TOOLS YOU TOOK FROM OUR HOUSE. WHERE ARE THEY?
WE NEED THEM, SO WE CAME TO GET THEM BACK.
HUH? WHY?!
MEANIE!
I'M NOT BEING MEAN.
WOULDN'T THAT BE EASIER THAN DISASSEMBLING ALL THE EQUIPMENT AND CARTING IT OVER TO YOUR PLACE?
...THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST USE OUR BASEMENT?
I'M NOT USING THEM NOW, SO GO AHEAD. BUT IF YOU'RE IN A HURRY...
DO YOU NEED ANY HELP?
I KNOW HOW TO USE MY OWN TOOLS.
THERE'S NO NEED.
YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT.
MUCH OBLIGED.
Beep!
NO WAY, TWERP!
WHEN DID YOU GET BACK?
CAN I TAKE AN X-RAY OF YOUR RIGHT ARM?
AHYWAY, YOU'VE ALREADY TOUCHED IT.
STOP!! DON'T TOUCH THAT. CUT IT...OUT!!
NOT A CHANCE!!
THEN AT LEAST LET ME TOUCH IT.
WELL, NO, BUT--
AS YOU'VE GUESSED ...
...HE'S HERE WITH US IN PROMETHEUS...
Don't call me a stalker
I'M SORRY, MY LITTLE BROTHER IS QUEER.
WHAT PART OF THIS SCENE MAKES YOU SAY THAT?!!
STOP FEELING UP MASTER SHOGETSU!!
SO IS HE--
...YOU'RE STALKING ALZEID RIGHT NOW, AREN'T YOU?
OH? BUT BAROQUE-HEAT...

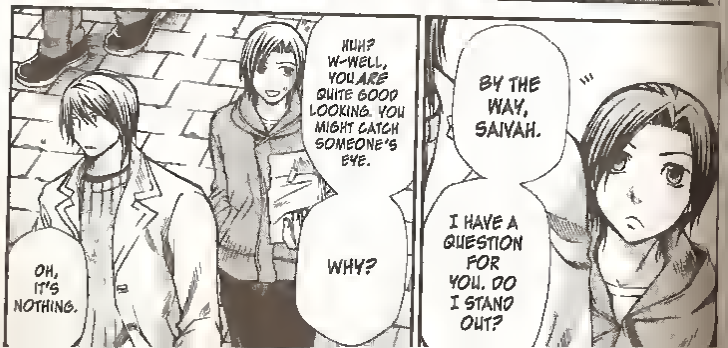
I WONDER WHY. THAT BURNS ME UP.
THERE'S NO WAY THE COUNCIL DOESN'T KNOW HE'S HERE.
COULD I BE THE ONLY ONE THAT WASN'T NOTIFIED?
WHY'RE YOU PICKING ON ME, BRAN-OWEN?
I WANT TO SEE ALZEID TOO.
Blush
PERHAPS THEY THOUGHT YOU MIGHT TRY VIVISECTING HIM, OR GIVING HIM STRANGE DRUGS OR DOING OTHER WEIRD EXPERIMENTS.
YOU SHUT UP, BEFYLA!!
ぼすっ
Smack
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE WAY YOU ACT.
NO ONE TRUSTS YOU, MASTER.
OH, IS THAT IT?
WHY WOULD I RISK LOSING A UNIQUE SPECIMEN FOR A MERE DRUG EXPERIMENT?
TOO TRUE.
QUITE! HOW RUDE!
BESIDES, I'M SCARED OF BLOOD.
Besides I probably would faint.
WHAT A WIMP.
WHAT? ON ALZEID?
THERE'S NO WAY I'D DO THAT.
Pout
YOU CAN GET INFINITELY MORE INFO FROM AN ACTIVE, LIVING SAMPLE THAN FROM ONE THAT'S CEASED ITS BIOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS.
BESIDES, THERE'S SO MUCH WE CAN DO WITHOUT CUTTING INTO HIM--LIKE CT SCANS AND BLOOD TESTS
THERE ARE PLENTY OF WAYS OF FINDING OUT WHAT'S INSIDE
FOR INSTANCE, IT'S SO MUCH MORE FUN WATCHING BRAINS IN ACTION ON AN FMRI THAN JUST DISSECTING THEM.
LIVING THINGS AREN'T MADE UP OF ONES AND ZEROS.
BESIDES, I DON'T JUST WANT DRY NUMERIC DATA.
ONE MUST SEE... NEAR...
...TOUCH.
...AND WE COULD LEAVE IT ALL TO MACHINES.
IF IT WEREN'T POSSIBLE TO MEASURE THINGS WITH YOUR FIVE SENSES, THEN THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY POINT IN HUMANS GETTING INVOLVED...

Vellnene 80km
VELLNENE IS 80 KILOMETERS THAT WAY.
I HOPE THERE'LL BE SOMEPLACE TO SPEND THE NIGHT ON THE WAY.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN COVER THAT DISTANCE TODAY.

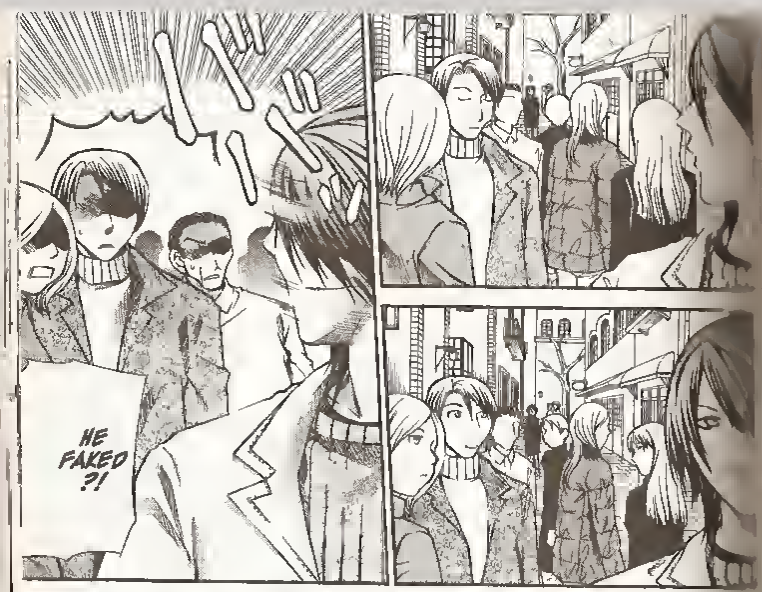

I'VE DECIDED.
LET'S GO SEE ALZEID.
ARE YOU SURE? BRANOWEN WILL BE ANGRY.
OOH, I'M REALLY SCARED.
BUT I WANT TO MEET HIM. IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
... BEFY-LADITA ... SALA-SANEIA ...
WOULD YOU GO GET HIM FOR ME?
I'm so
AND MAKE SURE...
...YOU DON'T OFFEND HIM.

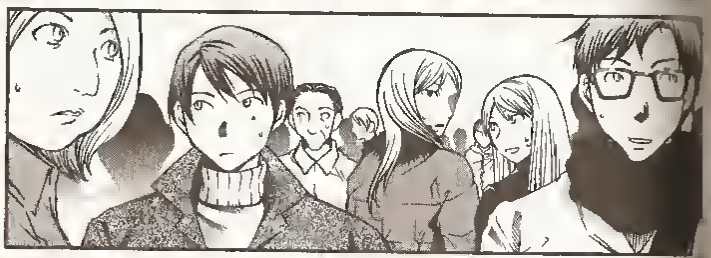
NO WAY. I WANNA PLAY SOME MORE.
SO, ALZEID...
.. YOU'VE GOT THE BULLETS YOU CAME FOR. CAN WE PLEASE GO HOME?
IS THAT ANY WAY FOR A 24-YEAR-OLD GROWN MAN TO TALK?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
GUN SHOP
Mine-uchi
KINGDOM

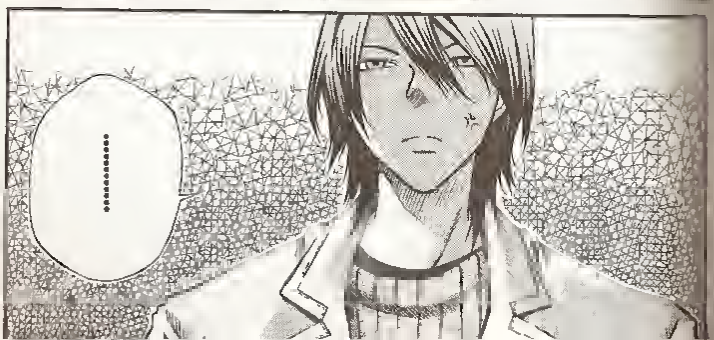
JUST STOP SAYING WHATEVER POPS INTO YOUR HEAD!
TO TICKLE YOUR PARENTAL INSTINCTS?
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO SAY IT THAT WAY AT ALL?!
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO SAY IT MORE CUTESILY?


OH, IT'S NOTHING.
HUH? W-WELL, YOU ARE QUITE GOOD LOOKING. YOU MIGHT CATCH SOMEONE'S EYE.
WHY?
BY THE WAY, SAIYAH.
I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU. DO I STAND OUT?

Chapter 53: The Name of a Sinful God Part 3: Let's Have a Tea Party



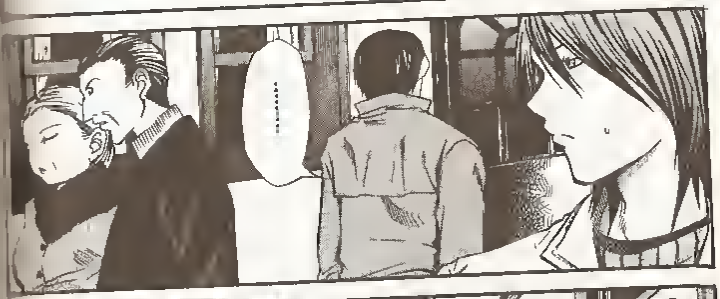




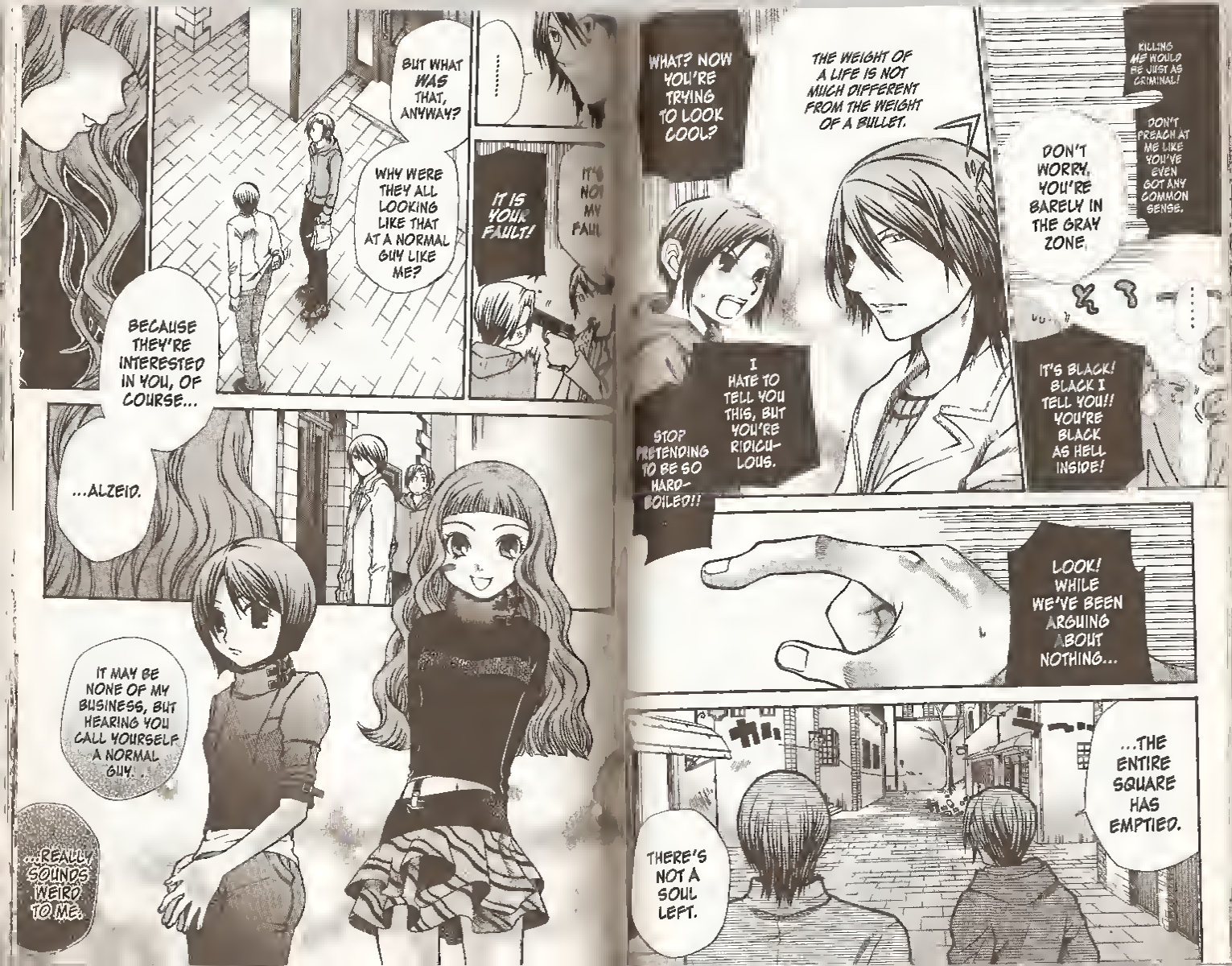
I KEEP FEELING PEOPLE WATCHING ME.

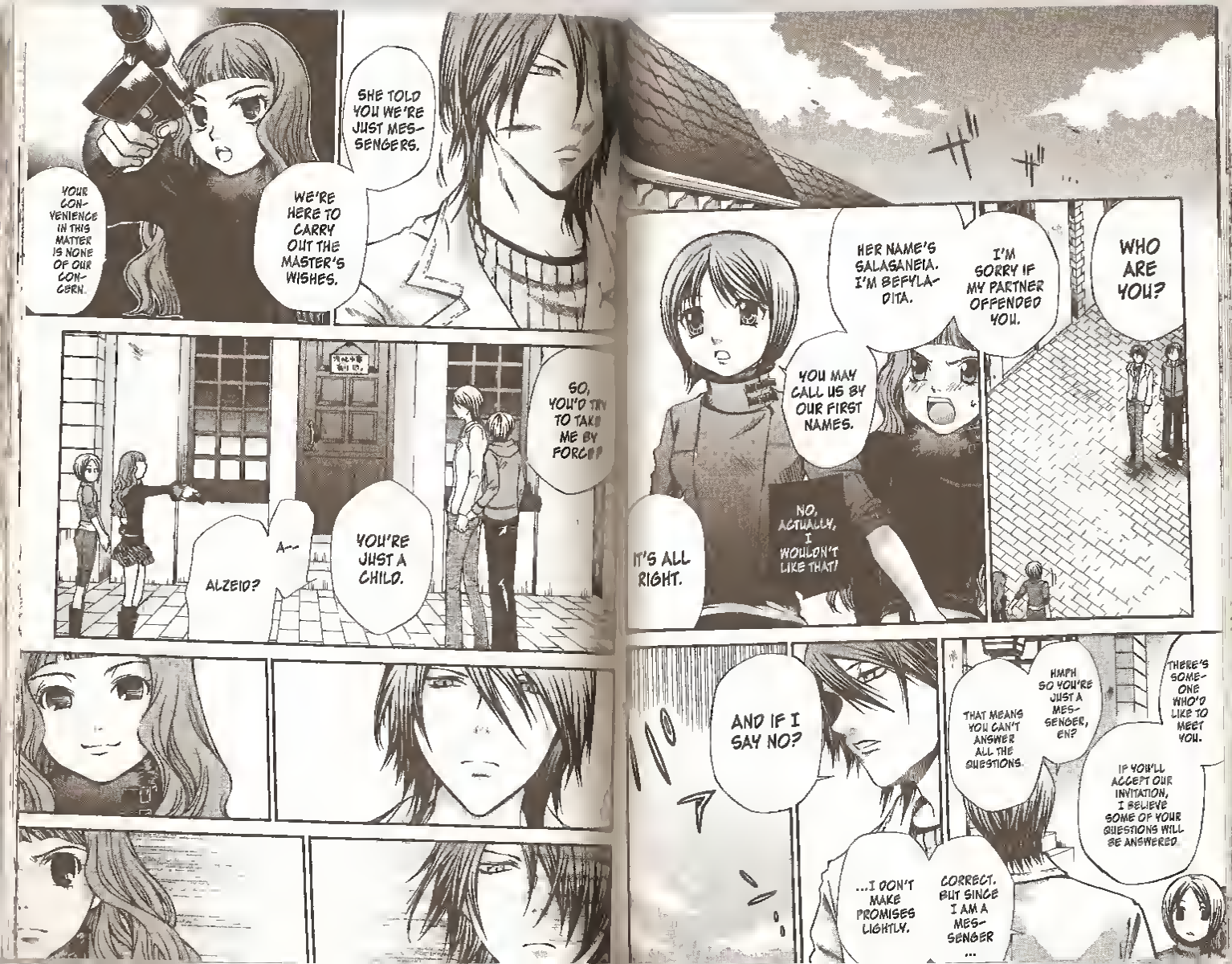
IS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION?

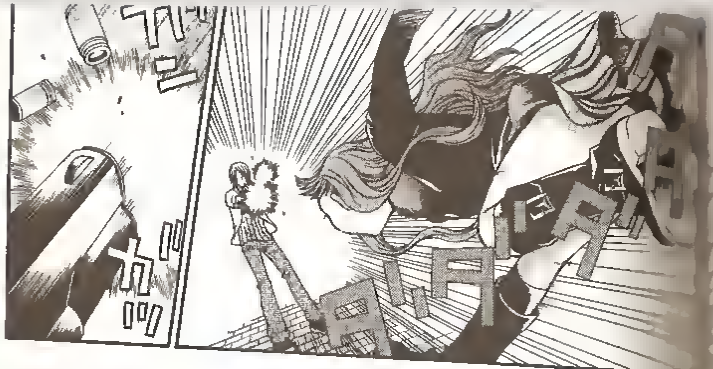
glance

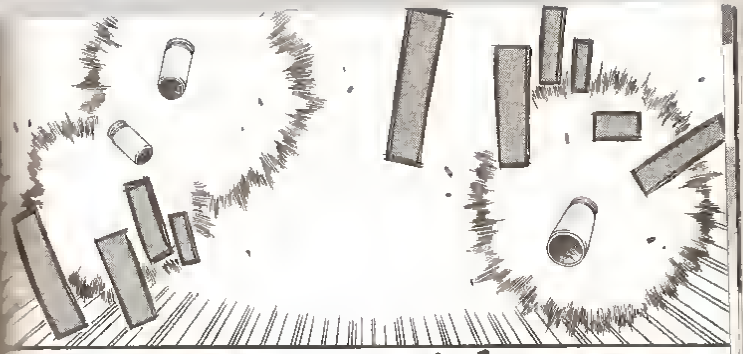


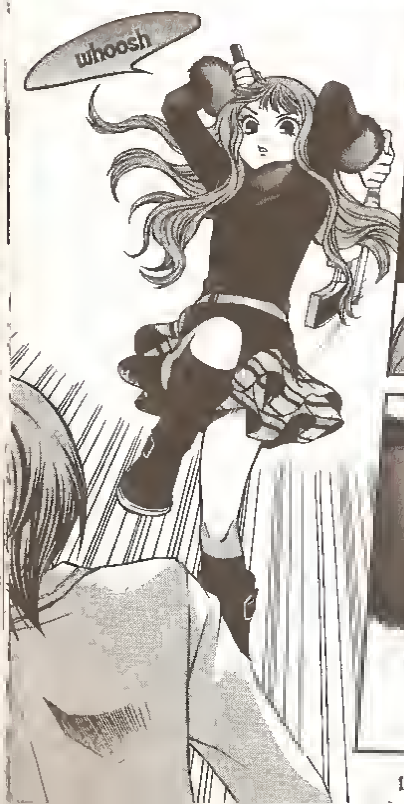
QUIT MESSING WITH ME AND TELL ME...
silence
...OR ELSE...
WHAAAAT ?!!
...THIS KID WILL DIE.
ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME OUT AS A CRIMI-NAL?
HOW COULD I SHOOT AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER JUST 'CAUSE I'M ANNOYED?
Don't be stup
WOULDN'T IT BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO THREATEN THEM WITH MASS MURDER OR SOMETHING?!
WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE ALL WATCHING ME.
ALZEID...
NOBODY MOVE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
OH.
SO IT'S ALL MY IMAGINA-TION?
NOT SO MUCH WATCH-ING...
NOT REALLY.
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS.
SO, PUT YOUR GUN DOWN AND--
Bang!!

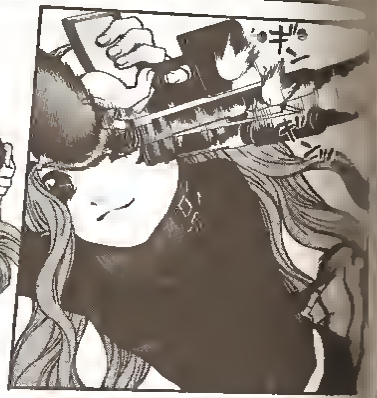

BUT WHAT WAS THAT, ANYWAY?
WHY WERE THEY ALL LOOKING LIKE THAT AT A NORMAL GUY LIKE ME?
BECAUSE THEY'RE INTERESTED IN YOU, OF COURSE...
...ALZEID.
IT MAY BE NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT HEARING YOU CALL YOURSELF A NORMAL GUY...
...REALLY SOUNDS WEIRD TO ME.
.....
IT'S NOT MY FAULT.
IT IS YOUR FAULT!
WHAT? NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO LOOK COOL?
THE WEIGHT OF A LIFE IS NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE WEIGHT OF A BULLET.
KILLING ME WOULD BE JUST AS CRIMINAL!
DON'T PREACH AT ME LIKE YOU'VE EVEN GOT ANY COMMON SENSE.
DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE BARELY IN THE GRAY ZONE.
IT'S BLACK! BLACK I TELL YOU!! YOU'RE BLACK AS HELL INSIDE!
I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT YOU'RE RIDICULOUS.
STOP PRETENDING TO BE SO HARD-BOILED!!
LOOK! WHILE WE'VE BEEN ARGUING ABOUT NOTHING...
...THE ENTIRE SQUARE HAS EMPTIED.
THERE'S NOT A SOUL LEFT.

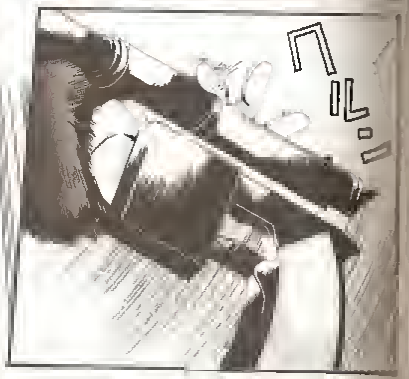

SHE TOLD YOU WE'RE JUST MESSENGERS.
WE'RE HERE TO CARRY OUT THE MASTER'S WISHES.
YOUR CONVENIENCE IN THIS MATTER IS NONE OF OUR CONCERN.
SO, YOU'D TRY TO TAKE ME BY FORCE?
YOU'RE JUST A CHILD.
A--
ALZEID?
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M SORRY IF MY PARTNER OFFENDED YOU.
HER NAME'S SALASANEIA. I'M BEFYLADITA.
YOU MAY CALL US BY OUR FIRST NAMES.
NO, ACTUALLY, I WOULDN'T LIKE THAT!
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
AND IF I SAY NO?
...I DON'T MAKE PROMISES LIGHTLY.
CORRECT. BUT SINCE I AM A MESSENGER ...
THAT MEANS YOU CAN'T ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS.
HMPH SO YOU'RE JUST A MESSENGER, EH?
THERE'S SOMEONE WHO'D LIKE TO MEET YOU.
IF YOU'LL ACCEPT OUR INVITATION, I BELIEVE SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED.

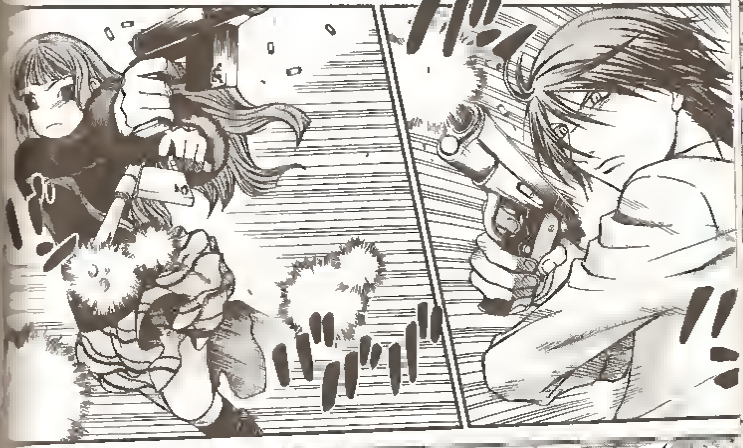





whoosh





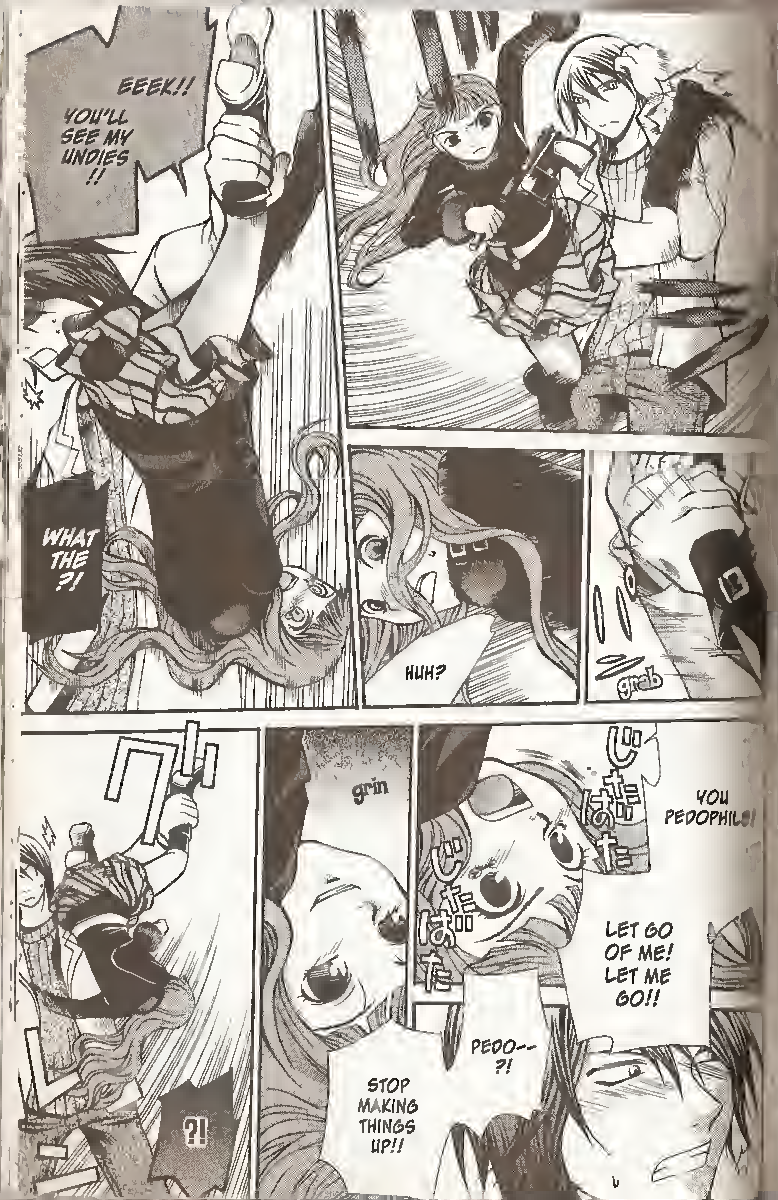


THEY'RE THE ONES WHO STARTED THIS!!
SHUT UP, BOTTOM FEEDER.
URRRGH !!

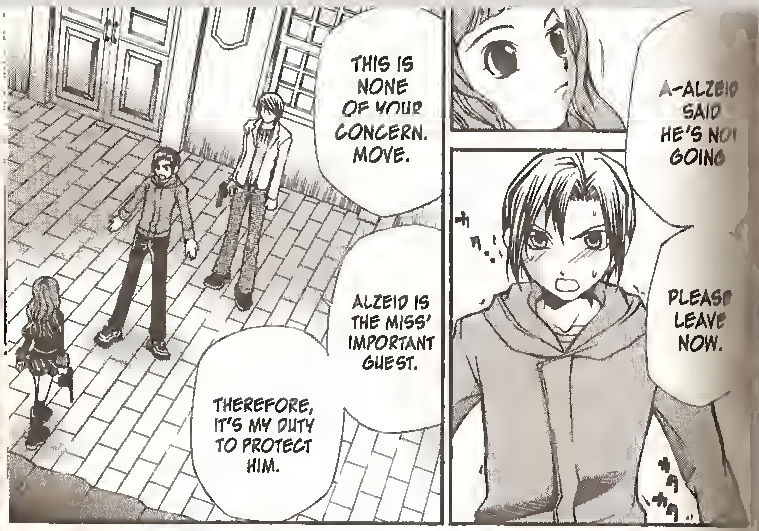
YOU'RE IN A PUBLIC STREET!!
STOP IT, YOU TWO!!

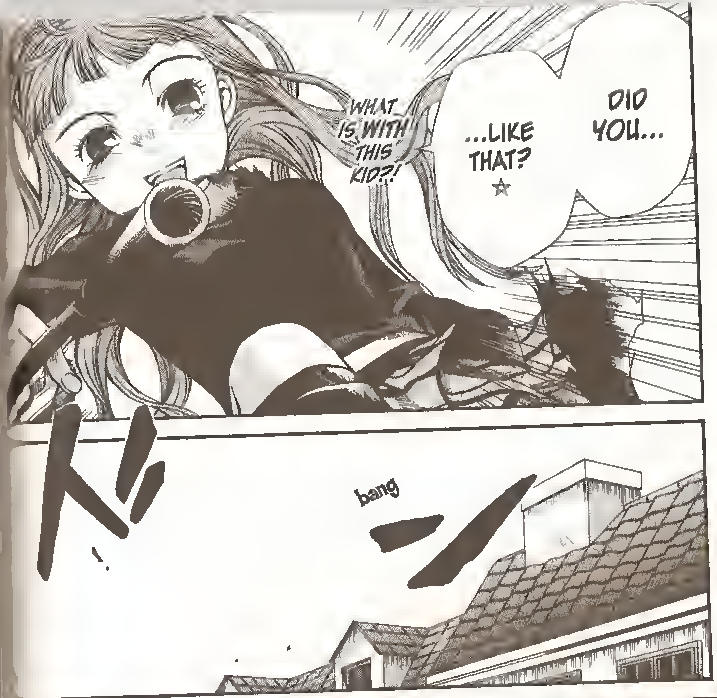
EEEK!!
PLAYTIME IS OVER.
TIME FOR CHILDREN TO GO HOME AND DO HOME-WORK.
THAT'S IT.

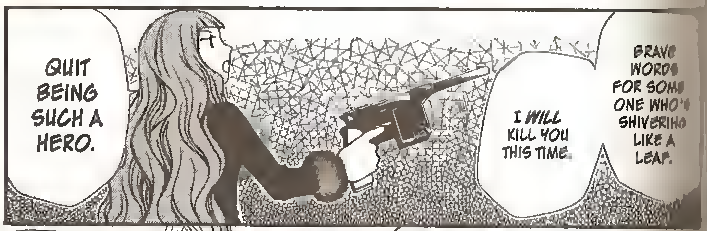
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE WHITE HAIR AND RED EYES. WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR HAIR?
DID YOU DYE IT? HOW TACKY.
SHUT UP.

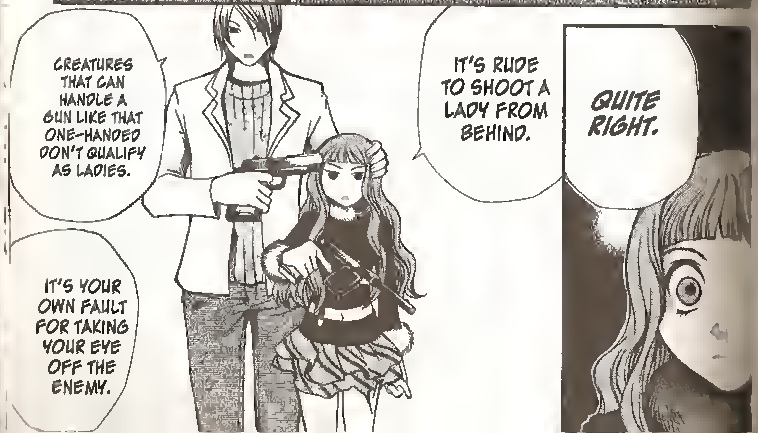

EEEK!!
YOU'LL SEE MY UNDIES !!
WHAT THE ?!
HUH?
grab
grin
じたばた
じたばた
YOU PEDOPHILE!
LET GO OF ME! LET ME GO!!
PEDO--?!
STOP MAKING THINGS UP!!
?!

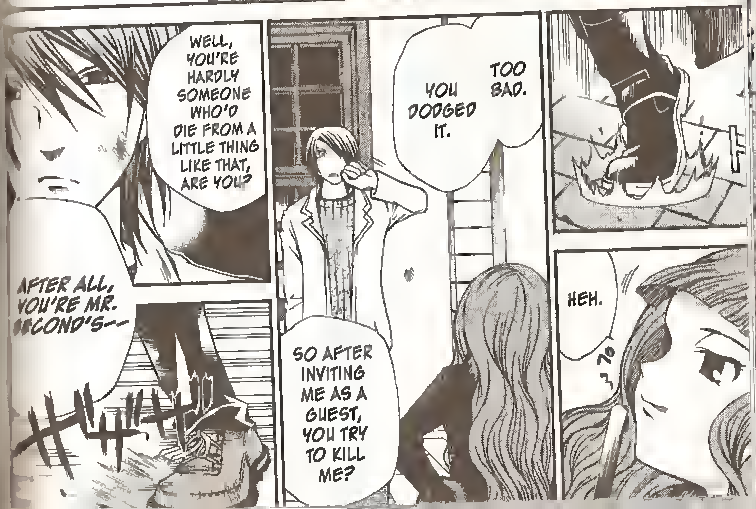
DON'T BE A FOOL!!
WHAT?!
YOU--
TSK.

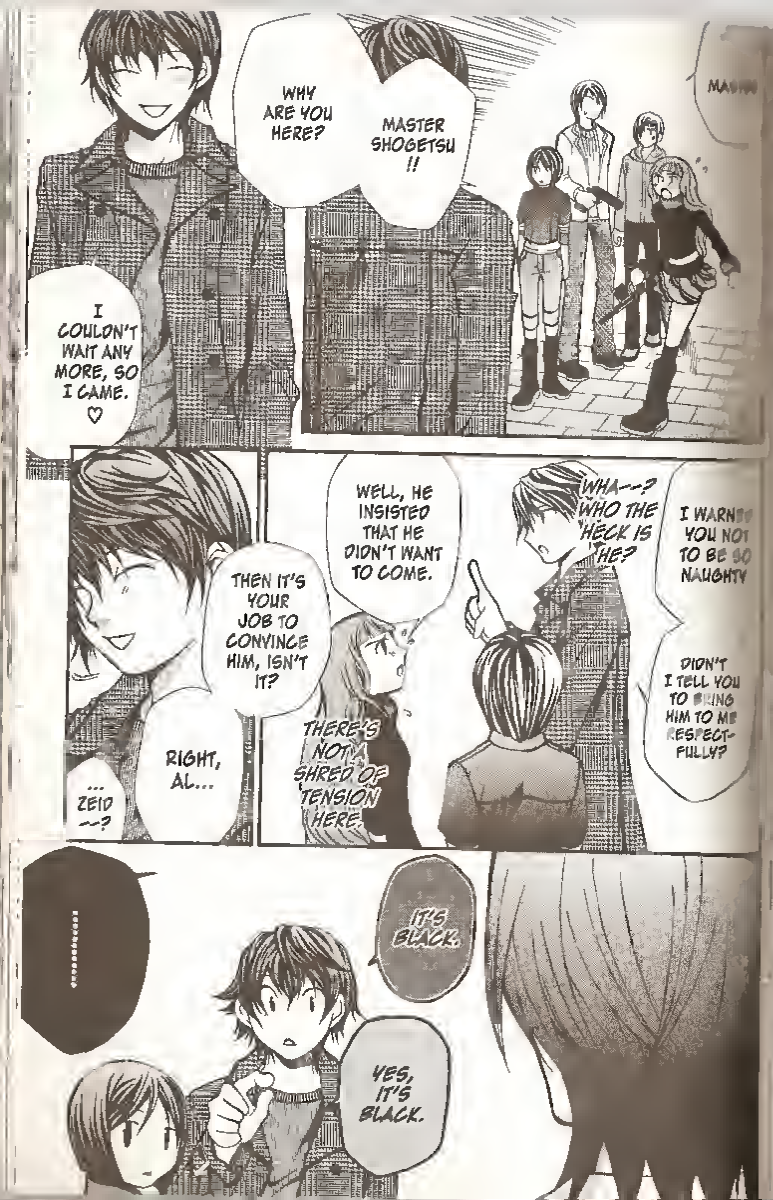

THIS IS NONE OF YOUR CONCERN. MOVE.
ALZEID IS THE MISS' IMPORTANT GUEST.
THEREFORE, IT'S MY DUTY TO PROTECT HIM.
A-ALZEID SAID HE'S NOT GOING
PLEASE LEAVE NOW.

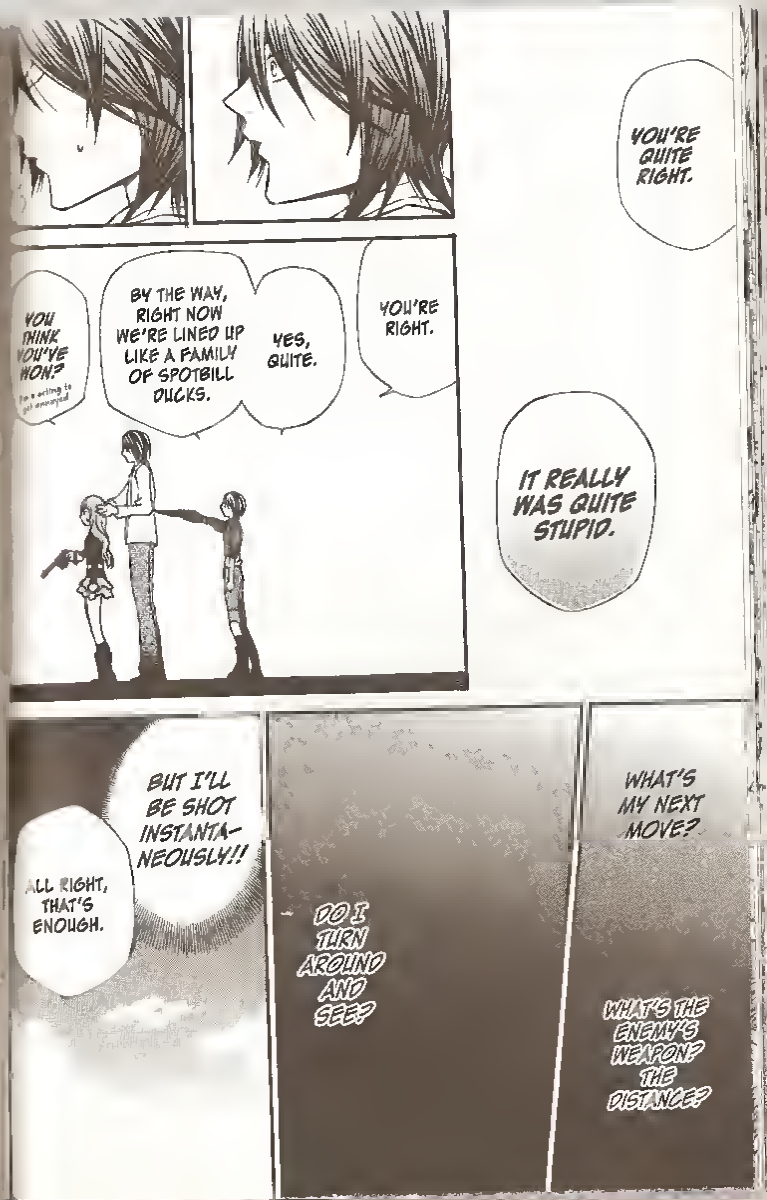

DID YOU...
...LIKE THAT?
WHAT IS WITH THIS KID?!
bang

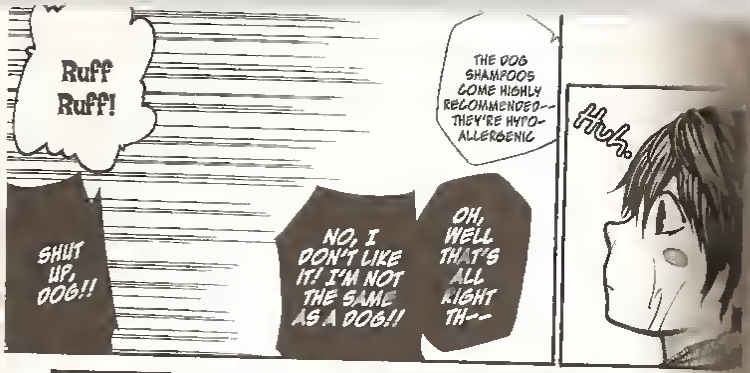

QUIT BEING SUCH A HERO.
I WILL KILL YOU THIS TIME.
BRAVE WORDS FOR SOMEONE WHO'S SHIVERING LIKE A LEAF.

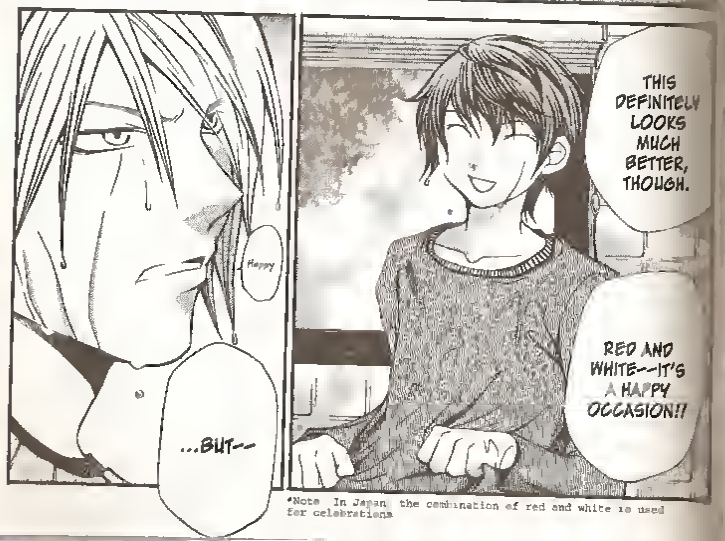

CREATURES THAT CAN HANDLE A GUN LIKE THAT ONE-HANDED DON'T QUALIFY AS LADIES.
IT'S RUDE TO SHOOT A LADY FROM BEHIND.
QUITE RIGHT.
IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT FOR TAKING YOUR EYE OFF THE ENEMY.


WELL, YOU'RE HARDLY SOMEONE WHO'D DIE FROM A LITTLE THING LIKE THAT, ARE YOU?
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE MR. SECOND'S--
YOU DODGED IT.
TOO BAD.
SO AFTER INVITING ME AS A GUEST, YOU TRY TO KILL ME?
HEH.

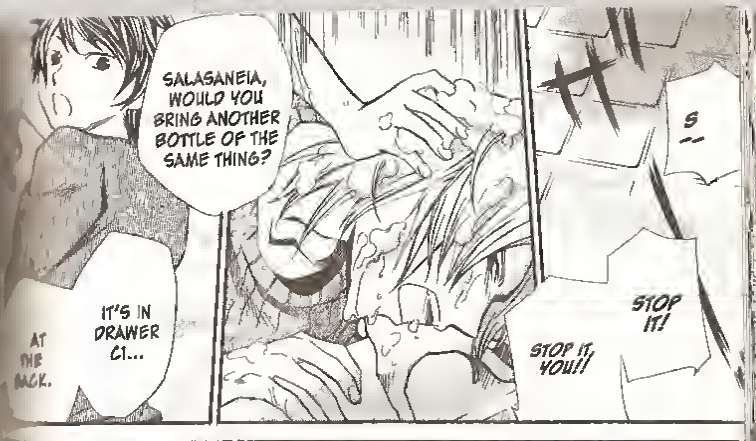

WHY ARE YOU HERE?
MASTER SHOGETSU !!
I COULDN'T WAIT ANY MORE, SO I CAME. ♡
THEN IT'S YOUR JOB TO CONVINCE HIM, ISN'T IT?
WELL, HE INSISTED THAT HE DIDN'T WANT TO COME.
WHA—? WHO THE HECK IS THAT?
I WARNED YOU NOT TO BE SO NAUGHTY
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO BRING HIM TO ME RESPECTFULLY?
RIGHT, AL...
... ZEID —?
THERE'S NOT A SHRED OF TENSION HERE.
IT'S BLACK.
YES, IT'S BLACK.


YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
YES, QUITE.
BY THE WAY, RIGHT NOW WE'RE LINED UP LIKE A FAMILY OF SPOTBILL DUCKS.
YOU THINK YOU'VE WON?
IT REALLY WAS QUITE STUPID.
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH.
BUT I'LL BE SHOT INSTANTA-NEOUSLY!!
DO I TURN AROUND AND SEE?
WHAT'S MY NEXT MOVE?
WHAT'S THE ENEMY'S WEAPON? THE DISTANCE?


Ruff Ruff!
SHUT UP, DOG!!
NO, I DON'T LIKE IT! I'M NOT THE SAME AS A DOG!!
OH, WELL THAT'S ALL RIGHT TH--
THE DOG SHAMPOOS COME HIGHLY RECOMMENDED--THEY'RE HYPO-ALLERGENIC
Huh.

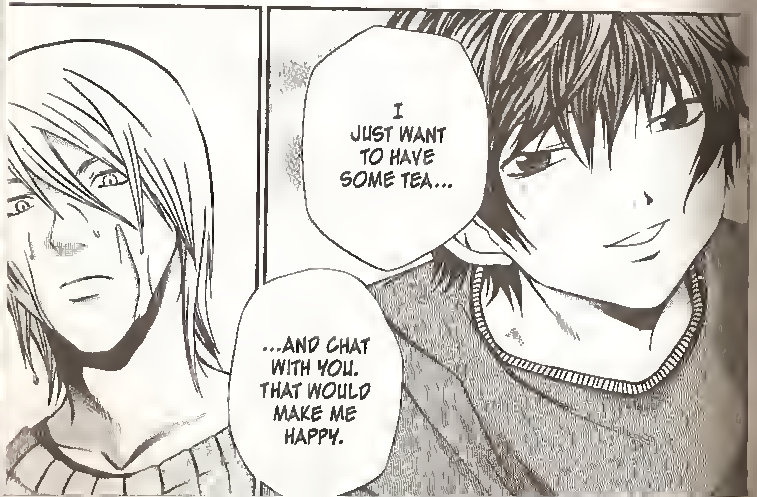


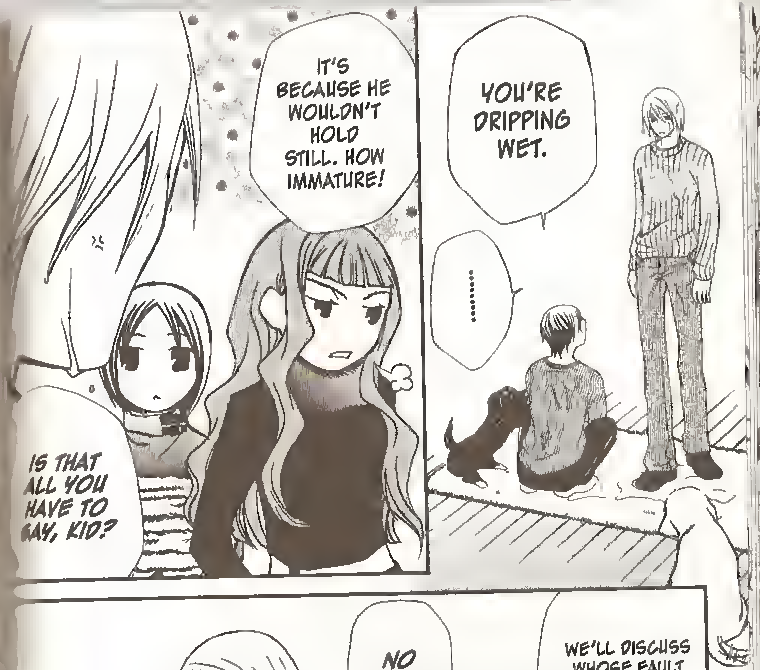
*Note In Japan, the combination of red and white is used for celebrations

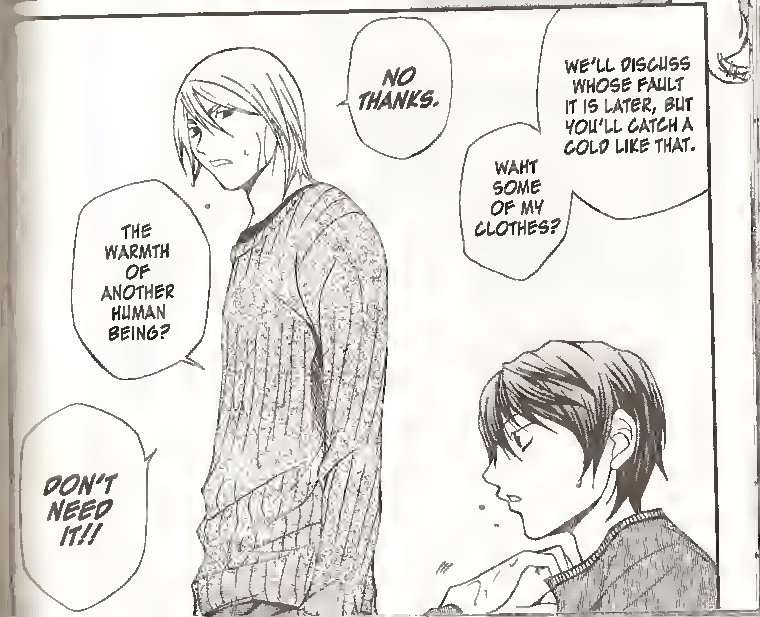


slap
STOP IT ALREADY!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, ANYWAY?!!
WHICH CONDITIONER SHOULD WE USE?
PERHAPS BARTHOLO'S WOULD BE GOOD?
OH, I'VE NEVER REALLY LIKED BARTHOLO'S.
Ruff!!

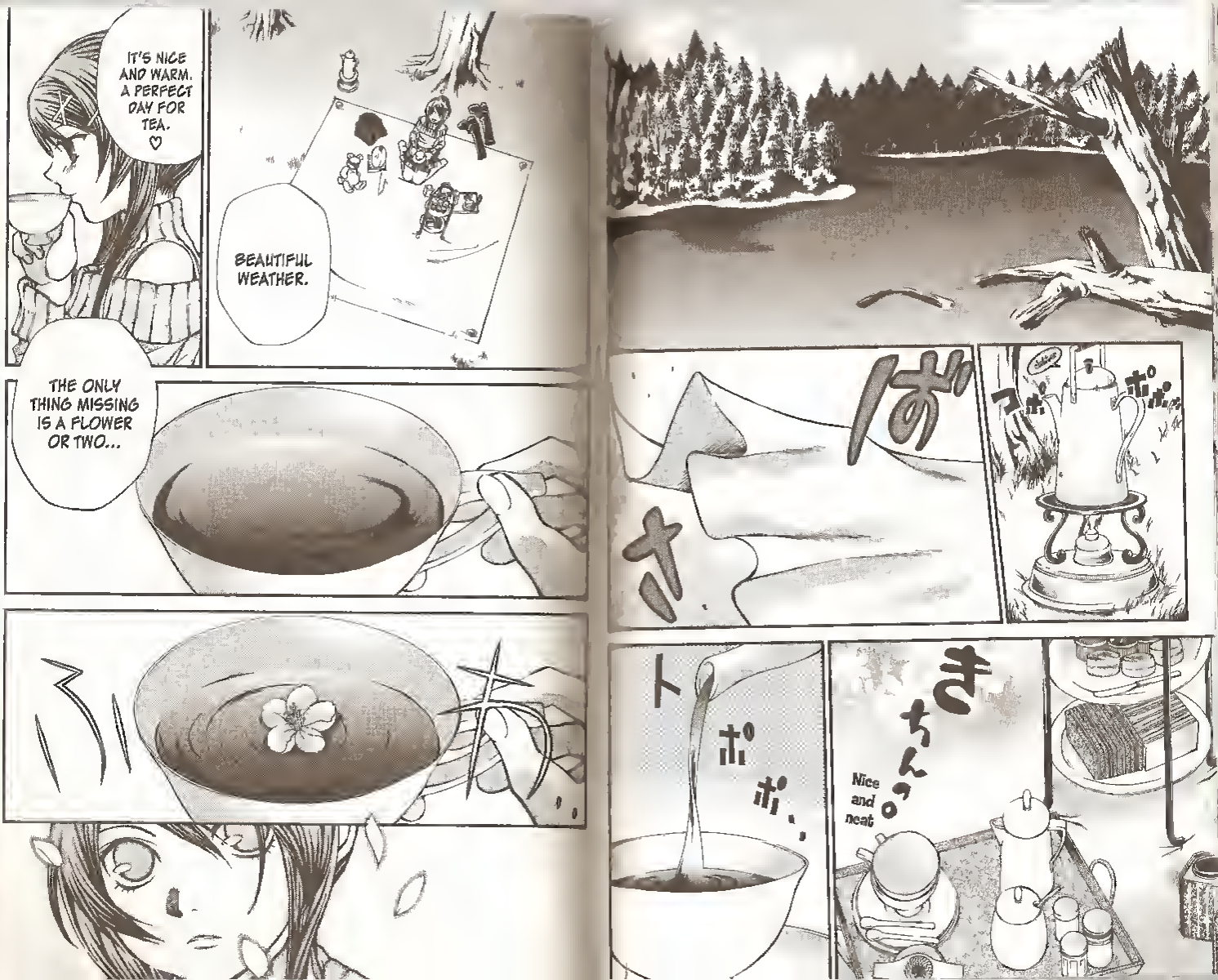
OH WELL.
GO BUY HIM SOMETHING SUITABLE.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT CLOTHES.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND?

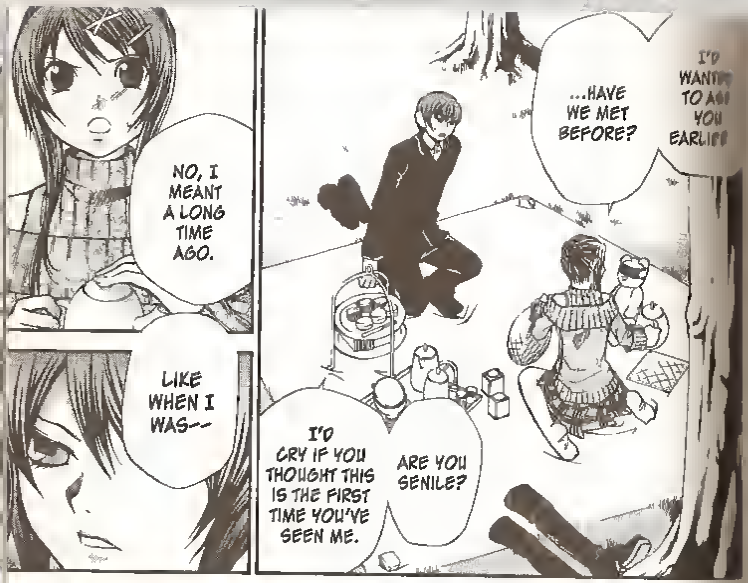

I JUST WANT TO HAVE SOME TEA...
...AND CHAT WITH YOU. THAT WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY.


IT'S BECAUSE HE WOULDN'T HOLD STILL. HOW IMMATURE!
IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY, KID?
YOU'RE DRIPPING WET.
.....

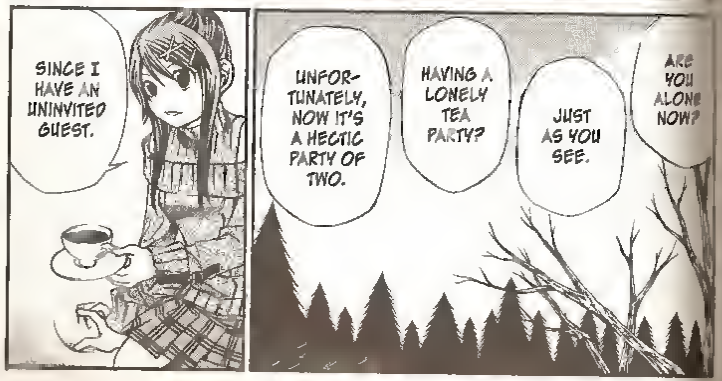

NO THANKS.
WE'LL DISCUSS WHOSE FAULT IT IS LATER, BUT YOU'LL CATCH A COLD LIKE THAT.
WANT SOME OF MY CLOTHES?
THE WARMTH OF ANOTHER HUMAN BEING?
DON'T NEED IT!!

NO, IT WAS ME!!
I'M THE ONE WHO CHOSE IT.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT CLOTHES.
I GUESSED RIGHT.
FITS PERFECTLY!
OH, GOOD!!
WHATEVER YOU LIKE.
YOU DON'T NEED TO CHOOSE A THEME.
SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
どすっ
I HAVE SOME BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF YOU, SO GO ON AND TALK AS YOU WISH.
ISN'T THAT WHAT CHATTING IS ALL ABOUT?
YOU...
FOR EXAMPLE, THE FACT THAT YOU WERE CLONED FROM THE CELLS OF A PERSON NAMED SECOND...
...IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN THIS TOWN.
ギリィ

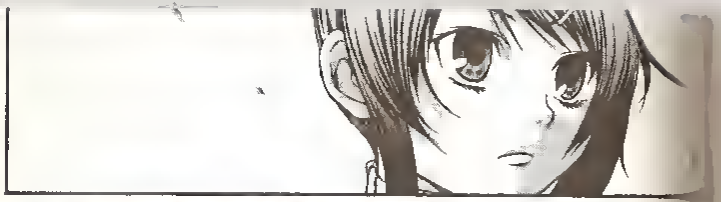

IT'S NICE AND WARM. A PERFECT DAY FOR TEA. ♡
BEAUTIFUL WEATHER.
THE ONLY THING MISSING IS A FLOWER OR TWO...
ぽさ
ポポ
ポポ
ポポ
きちんっ。
Nice and neat

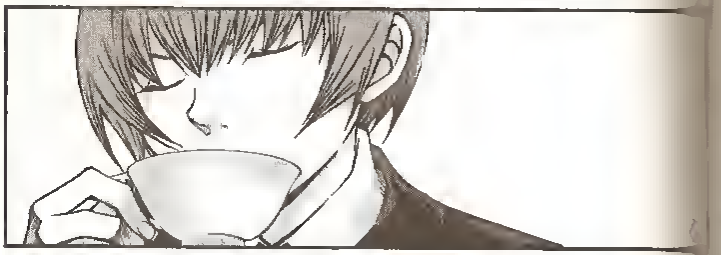

NO, I MEANT A LONG TIME AGO.
LIKE WHEN I WAS--
...HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
I'D WANT TO AS YOU EARLIER
I'D CRY IF YOU THOUGHT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN ME.
ARE YOU SENILE?

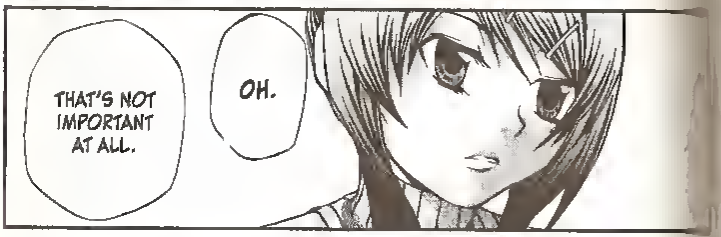
HMMM?
...OH, NEVER MIND.


SINCE I HAVE AN UNINVITED GUEST.
UNFORTUNATELY, NOW IT'S A HECTIC PARTY OF TWO.
HAVING A LONELY TEA PARTY?
JUST AS YOU SEE.
ARE YOU ALONE NOW?

HELLO.
HOW POETIC.
DID YOU WASH YOUR HANDS?
I BELIEVE THEY'RE CLEAN ENOUGH NOT TO CAUSE FOOD POISONING.
HOW DISAP-POINTING. YOU'RE NOT SUR-PRISED AT ALL.
I FIGURED I'D SEE YOU SOON.
IT WAS JUST A FEELING I HAD.
IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN ME, YOU CAN SIT OVER THERE.





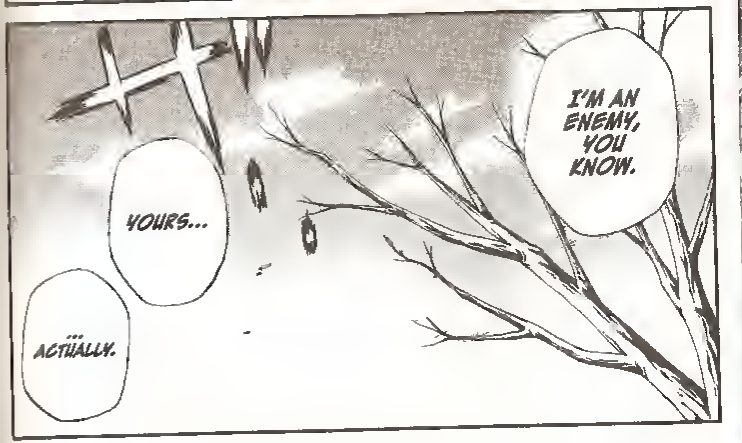

THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL.
OH.

I ALREADY KNEW...
...KINDA SORTA.

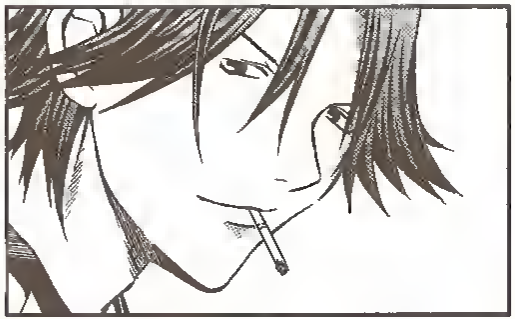
BY THE WAY, I HATE TO HAVE TO SAY THIS ON SUCH A PLEASANT OCCASION--
DON'T WORRY, YOU'VE ALREADY RUINED THE PLEASANT ATMOSPHERE.
WHAT IS IT? AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT?
YES, EXACTLY.

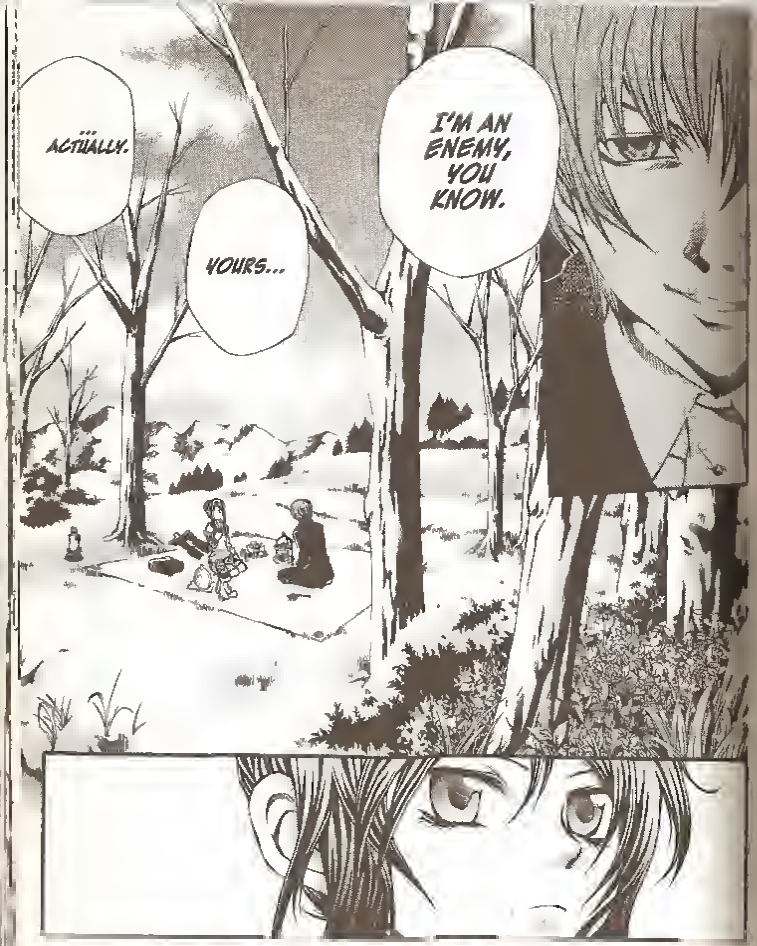
IT DOESN'T EVEN LOOK GOOD, BUT I'LL JOIN YOU...
...JUST TO BE POLITE.

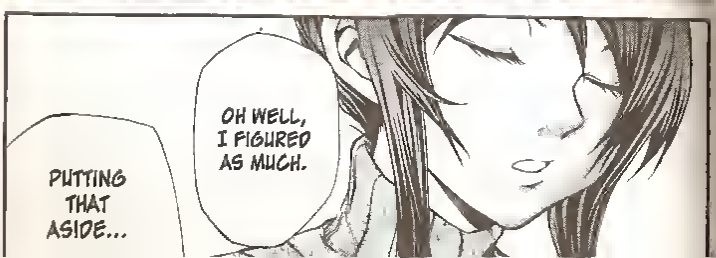
SOMETIMES YOU SHOULD KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT...
...JUST TO BE POLITE.


I'M AN ENEMY, YOU KNOW.
YOURS...
...ACTUALLY.

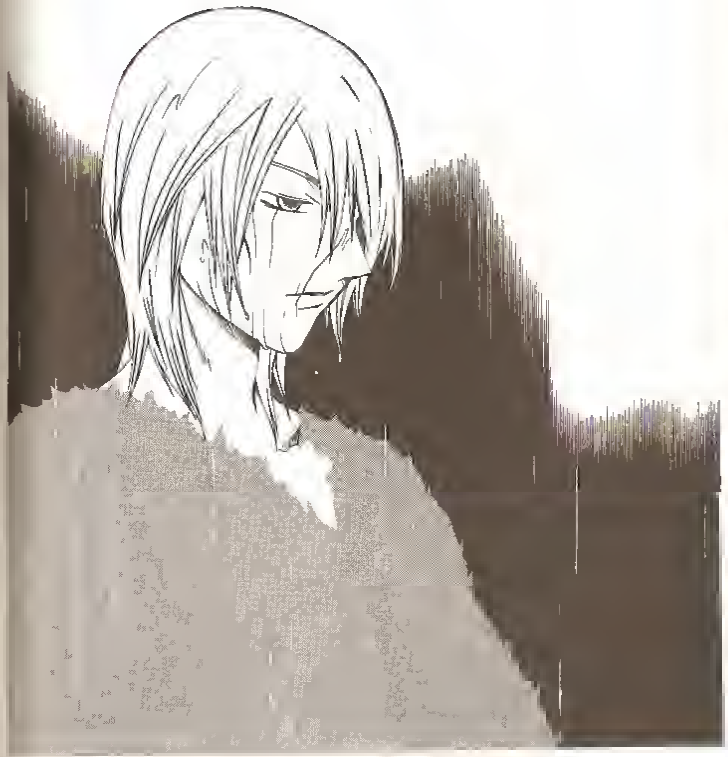
FATHER...
WHY DOESN'T OUR CHERRY TREE EVER HAVE CHERRIES?
WELL...
...BECAUSE IT'S A SOMEI YOSHINO CHERRY TREE.
UNFOR-TUNATELY, WITH THIS VARIETY...
...THOUGH THERE MAY BE MANY OF ITS KIND, IT WILL ALWAYS BE ALONE.



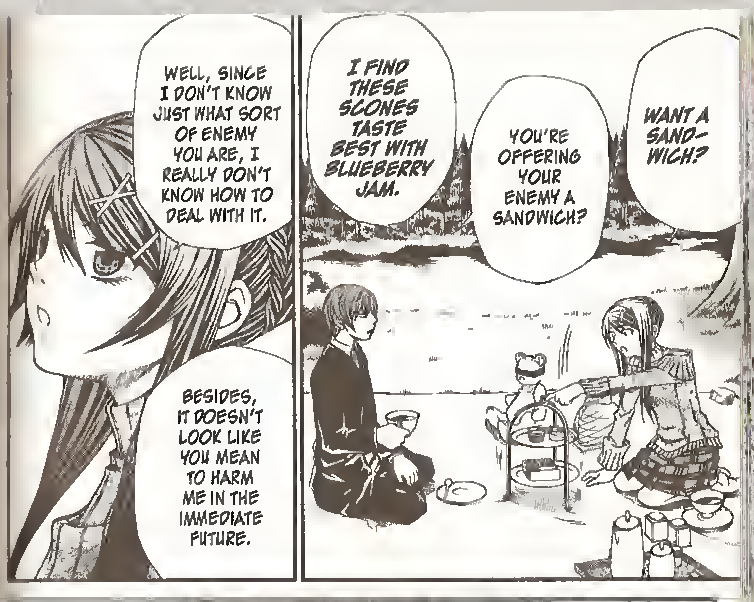


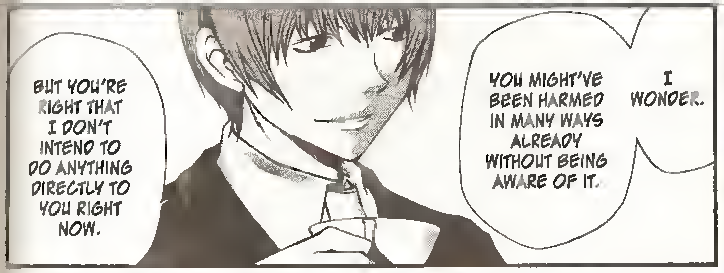


Chapter 54:
The Name of a Sinful God–
Part 4: Even If We're Fated to Be Scattered About

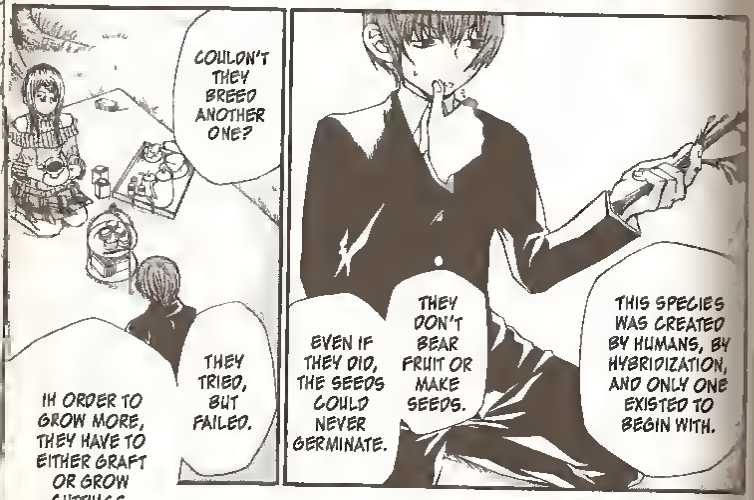


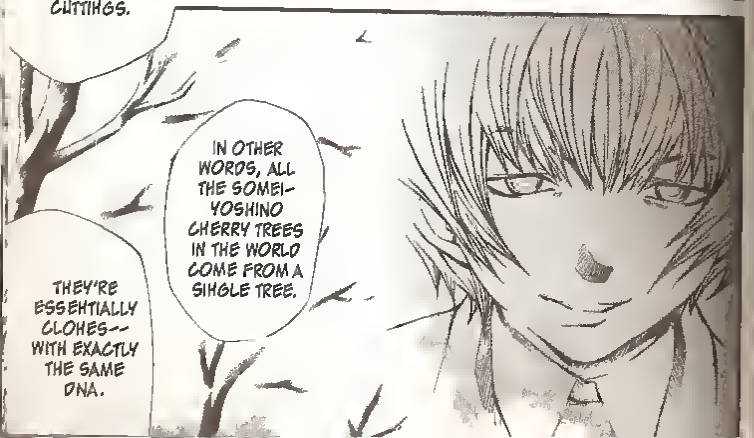
I CAN.
I KNOW.
THERE'S NO NEED TO TEST YOU.
IT'S A HASSLE TO FIGHT SOMEONE AT YOUR SKILL LEVEL.
IT'S NOT WORTH MY TIME IF YOU'RE LESS OF A FIGHTER THAN I AM.
WHAT D'YOU MEAN? THAT REALLY GETS ON MY NERVES.
OH, I CAN TELL.
YOU CAN'T TELL HOW GOOD I AM UNLESS YOU TRY ME.
YOU CAN'T PROTECT A THING.
MY NAME IS KIARA.
AND YOU?
Anything but blueberry
By the way, could you pass me the jam?
WELL, NOW THAT WE'VE ANNOUNCED THAT WE'RE ENEMIES...
...WE SHOULD INTRODUCE OURSELVES.

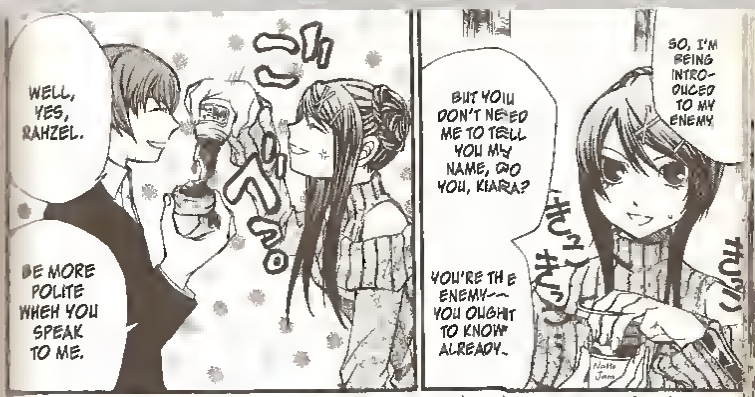

WELL, SINCE I DON'T KNOW JUST WHAT SORT OF ENEMY YOU ARE, I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH IT.
BESIDES, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU MEAN TO HARM ME IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.
I FIND THESE SCONES TASTE BEST WITH BLUEBERRY JAM.
YOU'RE OFFERING YOUR ENEMY A SANDWICH?
WANT A SAND-WICH?


BUT YOU'RE RIGHT THAT I DON'T INTEND TO DO ANYTHING DIRECTLY TO YOU RIGHT NOW.
YOU MIGHT'VE BEEN HARMED IN MANY WAYS ALREADY WITHOUT BEING AWARE OF IT.
I WONDER.

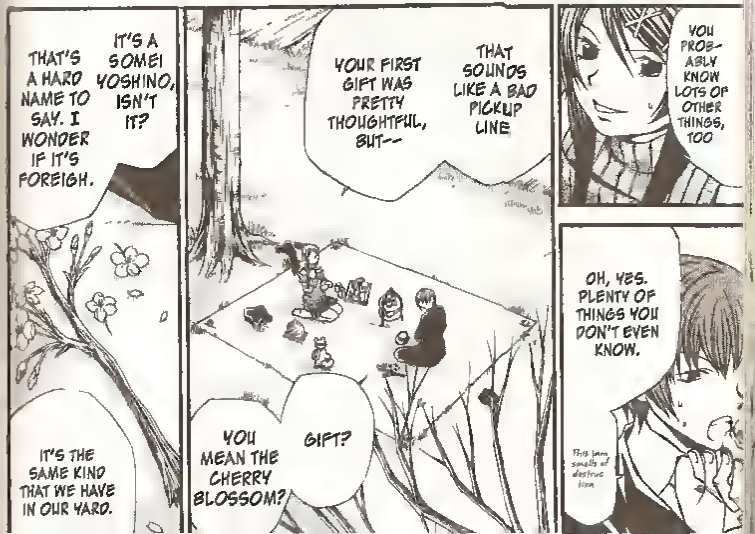
HUH?
'CAUSE YOU'RE NOT ANY GOOD.
WHY?
Ahhh


THIS SPECIES WAS CREATED BY HUMANS, BY HYBRIDIZATION, AND ONLY ONE EXISTED TO BEGIN WITH.
THEY DON'T BEAR FRUIT OR MAKE SEEDS.
EVEN IF THEY DID, THE SEEDS COULD NEVER GERMINATE.
THEY TRIED, BUT FAILED.
COULDN'T THEY BREED ANOTHER ONE?
IN ORDER TO GROW MORE, THEY HAVE TO EITHER GRAFT OR GROW CUTTINGS.


THEY'RE ESSENTIALLY CLONES-- WITH EXACTLY THE SAME DNA.
IN OTHER WORDS, ALL THE SOMEI-YOSHINO CHERRY TREES IN THE WORLD COME FROM A SINGLE TREE.


WELL, YES, RAHZEL.
BE MORE POLITE WHEH YOU SPEAK TO ME.
BUT YOU DON'T NEED ME TO TELL YOU MY NAME, DO YOU, KIARA?
YOU'RE THE ENEMY-- YOU OUGHT TO KNOW ALREADY.
SO, I'M BEING INTRO-DUCED TO MY ENEMY.
Natto Soup

*Note: Natto is made from fermented soybeans


IT'S A SOMEI YOSHINO, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S A HARD NAME TO SAY. I WONDER IF IT'S FOREIGH.
IT'S THE SAME KIND THAT WE HAVE IN OUR YARD.
YOUR FIRST GIFT WAS PRETTY THOUGHTFUL, BUT--
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A BAD PICKUP LINE
YOU MEAN THE CHERRY BLOSSOM?
GIFT?
YOU PROB-ABLY KNOW LOTS OF OTHER THINGS, TOO
OH, YES. PLENTY OF THINGS YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW.
This was south of destruc tion

A THING THAT WAS MADE AS A SIMPLE VESSEL OF LIFE.
NOTHING TO NURTURE. NOTHING TO CONNECT TO.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S...
...KIND OF EERIE?
THE FACT THAT YOU WERE CLONED FROM THE CELLS OF A PERSON NAMED SECOND...
...IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN THIS TOWN.
WHY HIM?
WELL, HE'S ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN HERE FROM THE BEGINNING, SO HE'D NATURALLY KNOW MORE..
...ABOUT MR. SECOND AND ABOUT PROMETHEUS.
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, ASK BAROQUE-HEAT ABOUT IT LATER.
THE TOWN--AND MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE PLAN.
YOU MEAN THIS TOWN?
PROMETHE...
WHY?
COMM KNOWL EDGE
OH GOOD, THIS IS BECOMING JUST LIKE A REAL CONVER-SATION. ♡
IT'S NICE.
SINCE MR. SECOND WAS ONE OF THE PRIMARY FOUNDERS OF PROMETHEUS...
...HE'S QUITE FAMOUS.

じゃぼ
Dump
?!
PERFECT!
Wha...
WHY'D YOU SUDDENLY DUMP THAT ON THE FLOOR?!
? THE STUFF INSIDE WAS IN THE WAY, SO I JUST POURED IT OUT.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!!
LET'S SAY THAT WHAT'S INSIDE THIS TEAPOT IS THE FERTILIZED EGG.
THEY BOTH HAVE THE SAME GENETIC INFOR-MATION...
...JUST LIKE CLONES.
THE TWINS THAT ARE BORN ARE LIKE THESE CUPS OF TEA.
THE CONTENTS ARE EXACTLY THE SAME.
YOU'RE NOT VERY SPONTAN-EOUS, ARE YOU?
PLEASE DON'T MIND HIM. THE MASTER'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
YOU KNOW ABOUT IDENTICAL TWINS, DON'T YOU?
A SINGLE FERTILIZED EGG, BEFORE IT IMPLANTS IN THE UTERUS...
...SPLITS INTO TWO SEPARATE ENTITIES...
...AND BECOMES TWINS.
I THINK YOU CAN TRUST HIM.
BUT I DON'T THINK HE'S YOUR ENEMY.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BE SURPRISED ABOUT, DO YOU?
.....
ALL YOU HAVE FOR ME IS CURIOSITY ...
THINK WELL OF YOU?
...IF YOU CAN THINK WELL OF ME, IT WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY.
AND...
LIKE...
THEY JUST HAVE THE SAME GENETIC INFOR-MATION.
BUT CLONES AREN'T THE SAME HUMAN BEING AT ALL!
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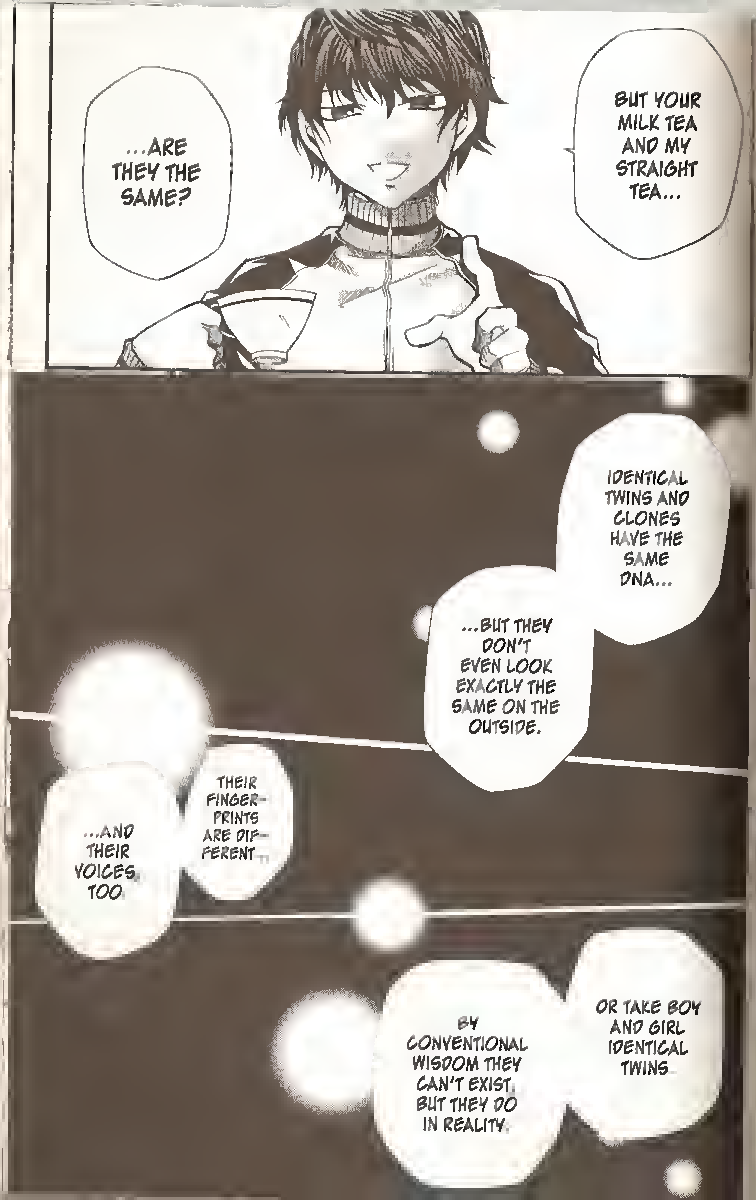
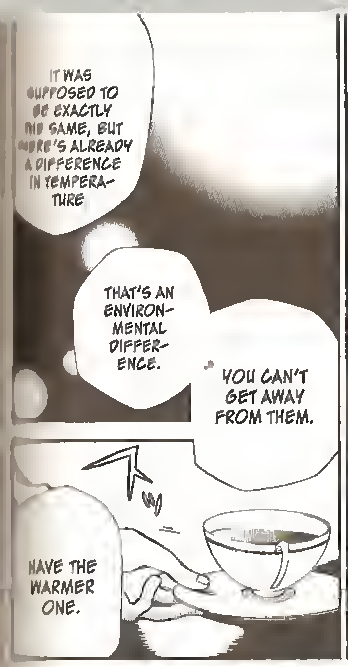
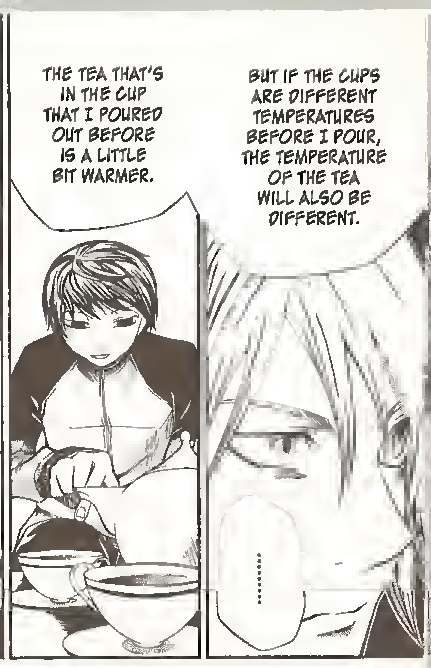
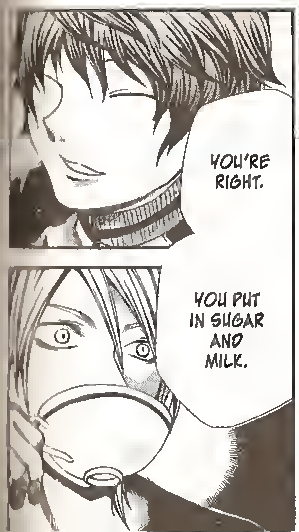
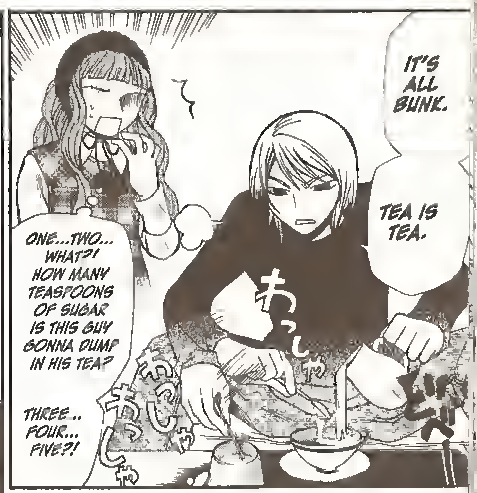
...SINCE I'M SECOND'S CLONE...
...SINCE I'M THE SAME HUMAN BEING AS SECOND.


...ARE THEY THE SAME?
BUT YOUR MILK TEA AND MY STRAIGHT TEA...
IDENTICAL TWINS AND CLONES HAVE THE SAME DNA...
...BUT THEY DON'T EVEN LOOK EXACTLY THE SAME ON THE OUTSIDE.
THEIR FINGER-PRINTS ARE DIF-FERENT...
...AND THEIR VOICES, TOO.
BY CONVENTIONAL WISDOM THEY CAN'T EXIST, BUT THEY DO IN REALITY.
OR TAKE BOY AND GIRL IDENTICAL TWINS.

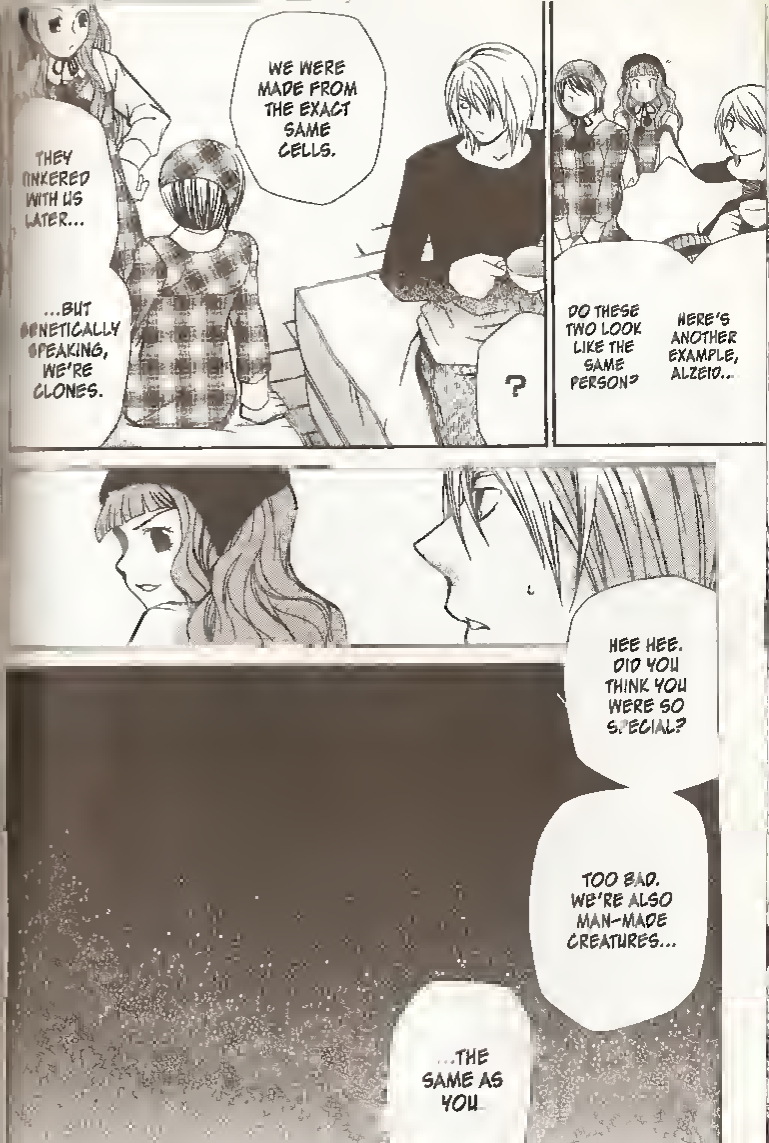

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE EXACTLY THE SAME, BUT THERE'S ALREADY A DIFFERENCE IN TEMPERA-TURE
THAT'S AN ENVIRON-MENTAL DIFFER-ENCE.
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THEM.
HAVE THE WARMER ONE.


THE TEA THAT'S IN THE CUP THAT I POURED OUT BEFORE IS A LITTLE BIT WARMER.
BUT IF THE CUPS ARE DIFFERENT TEMPERATURES BEFORE I POUR, THE TEMPERATURE OF THE TEA WILL ALSO BE DIFFERENT.
.....

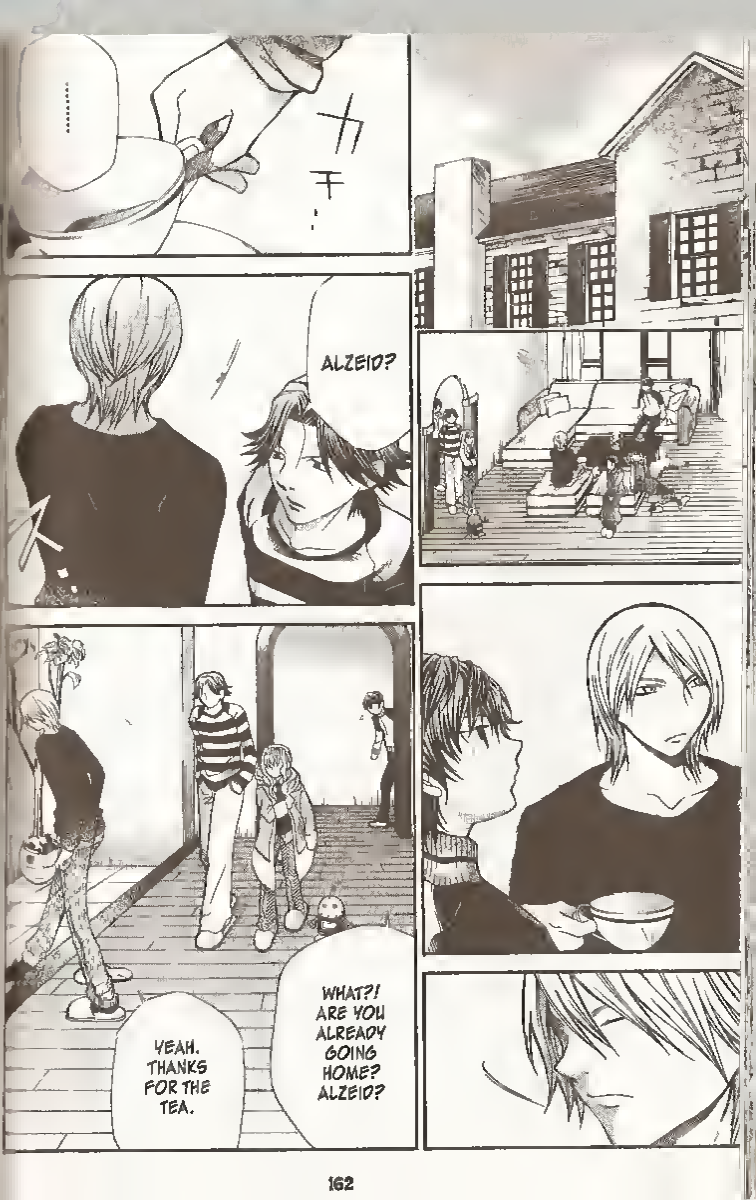

YOU'RE RIGHT.
YOU PUT IN SUGAR AND MILK.


IT'S ALL BUNK.
TEA IS TEA.
ONE...TWO... WHAT?! HOW MANY TEASPOONS OF SUGAR IS THIS GUY GONNA DUMP IN HIS TEA?
THREE... FOUR... FIVE?!

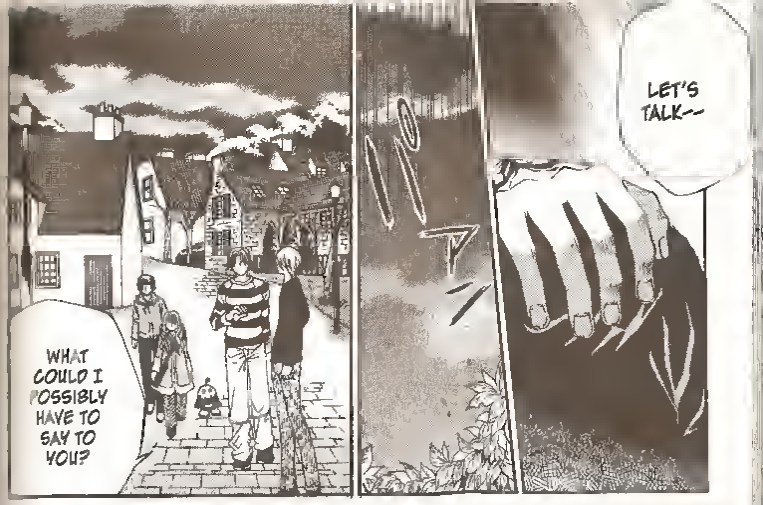
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO OUTSIDE, ALZEID.
.....
WH-WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?!! IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL.
AND...
BESIDES, LOOK AROUND YOU. THERE'S A BUNCH--
...I DID NOT GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO MEET WITH HIM...
THIS IS WHERE TEATIME ENDS.
...SHO-GETSU.

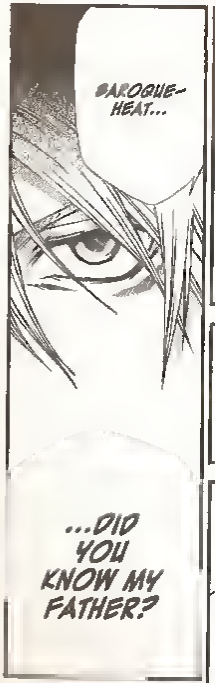

WE WERE MADE FROM THE EXACT SAME CELLS.
THEY TINKERED WITH US LATER...
...BUT GENETICALLY SPEAKING, WE'RE CLONES.
?
DO THESE TWO LOOK LIKE THE SAME PERSON?
HERE'S ANOTHER EXAMPLE, ALZEID...
HEE HEE. DID YOU THINK YOU WERE SO S'ECIAL?
TOO BAD. WE'RE ALSO MAN-MADE CREATURES...
...THE SAME AS YOU

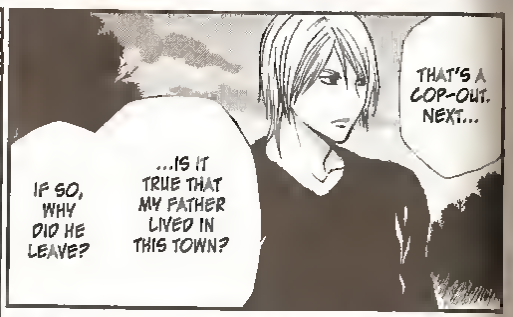
AWWW
WE'LL PAY YOU BACK SOMETIME.
THANKS FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY.
WE WILL TAKE OUR LEAVE AS WELL.
DID I DETECT SARCASM?
DEFINITELY.
WE'VE MADE HER MAD.
ALZEID!
WAIT, ALZEID!


ALZEID?
WHAT?! ARE YOU ALREADY GOING HOME? ALZEID?
YEAH. THANKS FOR THE TEA.

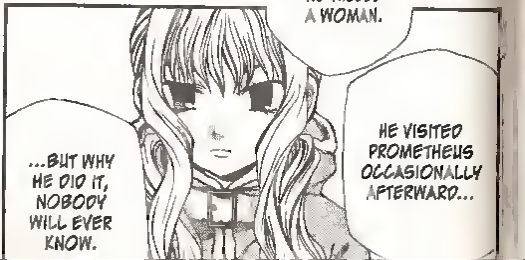
HEAVENS, NO.
FIRST OF ALL, I WASN'T BORN HERE...
...AND I DON'T HAVE A HOUSE HERE EITHER.
BUT IF YOU MEAN AM I CONNECTED TO PROMETHEUS IN SOME WAY, I WOULD HAVE TO SAY YES.

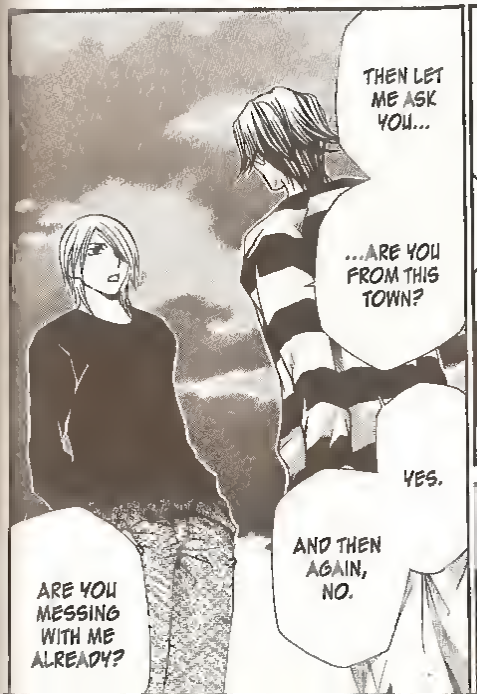

WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY HAVE TO SAY TO YOU?
LET'S TALK--


BAROQUE-HEAT...
...DID YOU KNOW MY FATHER?


THAT'S A COP-OUT. NEXT...
...IS IT TRUE THAT MY FATHER LIVED IN THIS TOWN?
IF SO, WHY DID HE LEAVE?

THE ANSWER IS YES.
AND HE LEFT BECAUSE HE KILLED A WOMAN.

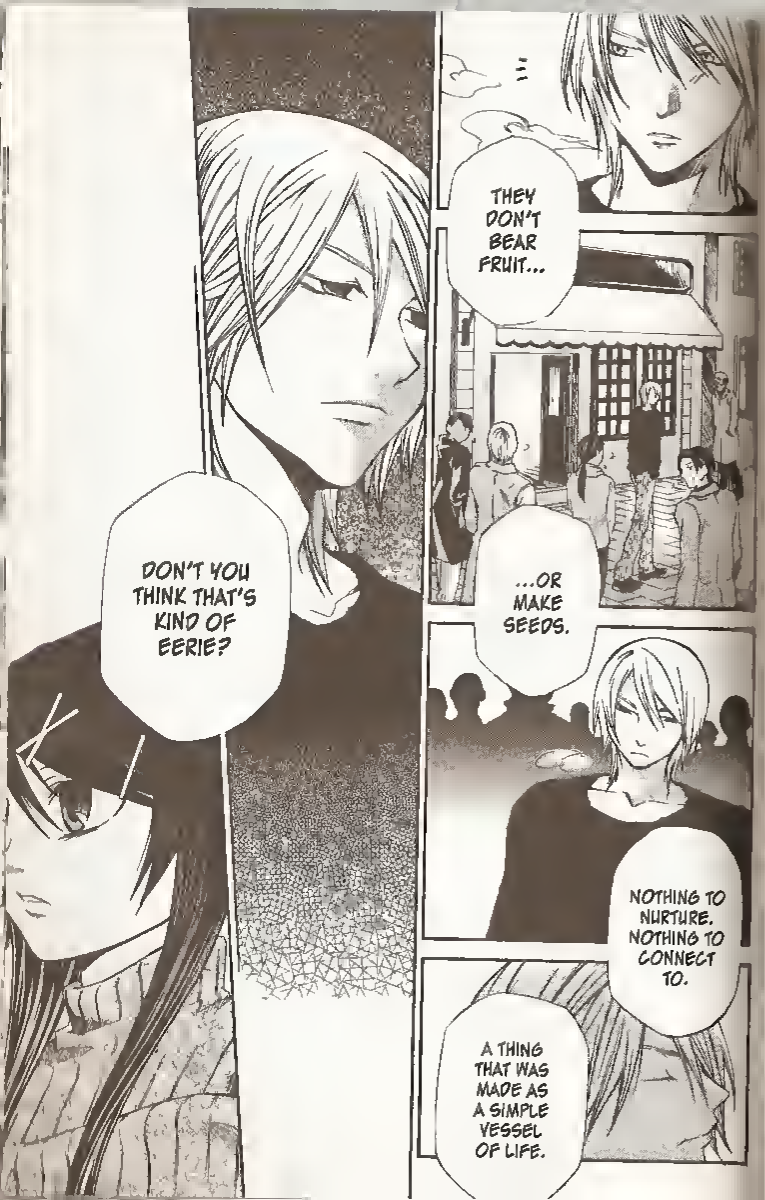

HE VISITED PROMETHEUS OCCASIONALLY AFTERWARD...
...BUT WHY HE DID IT, NOBODY WILL EVER KNOW.


THEN LET ME ASK YOU...
...ARE YOU FROM THIS TOWN?
YES.
AND THEN AGAIN, NO.
ARE YOU MESSING WITH ME ALREADY?

WHATEVER COMES TO YOUR MIND, AS IT COMES TO YOUR MIND.

.....

I'M GOING BACK.
YES.
YOU CAN WATCH ME OR WHATEVER YOU WANT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE I AM IN THIS TOWN.
NO WAY.
DOES HE HAVE THE KEY TO YOUR PLACE, BRAN?
HE'S GOING AHEAD.
WAIT, ALZEIO! DON'T BREAK ANY WINDOWS OR ANYTHING TO GET INSIDE!!
...I'M SORRY.
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING BEHIND THAT CARELESS GRIN?!
WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?


DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S KIND OF EERIE?
THEY DON'T BEAR FRUIT...
...OR MAKE SEEDS.
NOTHING TO NURTURE. NOTHING TO CONNECT TO.
A THING THAT WAS MADE AS A SIMPLE VESSEL OF LIFE.

BUT I DO KNOW...
...HOW MUCH EMOTION YOU MUST SILENCE...
...IN ORDER TO BE AROUND ALZEID--
A FOOL?
A HELPLESS FOOL.
YOU'RE A FOOL.
I'M SORRY.
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
OH DEAR.
YOU'VE SPOILED YOUR TRUST AND SOILED YOUR PRIDE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THIS IS STILL WORTH CARRYING OUT AFTER ALL THE OPPOSITION YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED.
--A PERSON WITH THE SAME FACE...
...AS THE MAN WHO KILLED OUR NATSUME.

THEY'RE NOT ALONE.
HEY, FATHER.
EVEN IF ALL THEY DO IS SCATTER THEIR PETALS...
...THEIR BEAUTY MAKES MY HEART ACHE.
I...
...IS BECAUSE SO MANY PEOPLE WANTED THEM
MAYBE THE REASON THERE'S SO MANY FLOWERING CHERRY TREES, EVEN THOUGH THEY CAN'T REPRODUCE NATURALLY...
...LIKE THEM.
DON'T WORRY.
THEY'RE NOT LONELY.
THEY'RE WANTED. THEY'RE LOVED.
BUT YOU KNOW...
THEY STILL FLOWER EVERY YEAR.

creak
step
step
step
I'LL JUST PUT IT OUTSIDE THE DOOR.
YOU CAN EAT IT WHEN YOU WANT, OKAY?
Thud
JUST CLOSE THE DOOR RIGHT THIS MINUTE!!
GRRRR... MOVE YOUR HAND.
YO! ♡
LET GO.
NOT GONNA HAPPEN! ☆
LET GO.
NO WAY, JOSÉ. ☆

I'M...
... HUNGRY.
I WONDER WHAT TIME IT IS.
GLOOMY ...
--I MEAN, NOT ME, BUT OUTSIDE.
AL-BOY, OIN-OIN.
AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
OPEN THE DOOR, WILL YOU?
Is he ignoring me?

THE FIRST ONE WAS: HELP ALZEID.
SO I HAVE TO DO IT.
IS THAT WHY YOU APPROACHED ME?
UH-HUH.
WAS THAT AFTER YOU JOINED THE OBPLAY ARMY?
NO, LONG BEFORE THAT.
ABOUT THE TIME YOU LEFT HOME AFTER YOU LOST YOUR PARENTS.
YOU WERE A LITTLE CHILD.
HEY, WAIT. HOW OLD DID YOU SAY YOU WERE?
TWENTY-EIGHT! AT THE HEIGHT OF MY MANHOOD.
SO YOU'VE LIED ABOUT YOUR AGE, AND YOU'VE BEEN STALKING ME? YOU'RE A TOTAL CRIMINAL.
OH, HOW DARE YOU?!
I ONLY STALK RAHZEL, NOT YOU.

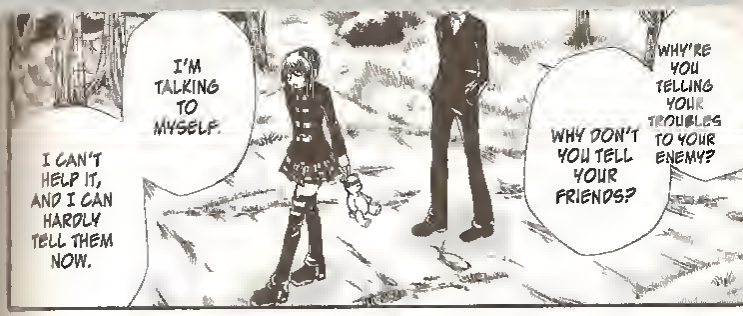
WHILE YOU SIT THERE...
...AND EAT YOUR DINNER, CAN I TALK TO YOU?
AYE-AYE.
I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE WOMAN WHO TATTOOED MY HAND, DIDN'T I?
IN EXCHANGE, SHE MADE ME PROMISE TO CARRY OUT HER LAST WISHES.
CAN YOU BELIEVE THERE WERE THREE?! SHE WAS SUCH A PUSHY BROAD.
WELL, I WAS IN LOVE WITH HER AND STUFF, SO...

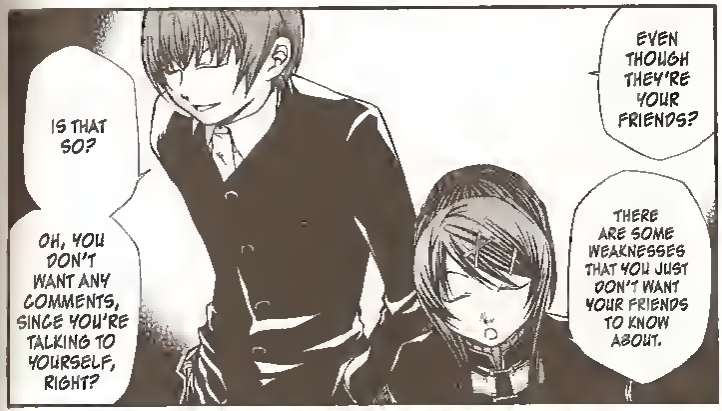
I'M SORRY.
YOU ARE...
...A COWARD...
I KNOW.
...AND A BASTARD.
I KNOW.
I KNOW DAMN WELL.
IF YOU LIKE THAT KID SO MUCH, WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE ME THE HELL ALONE AND GO AFTER HER?!!
DON'T BE SUCH A PARTY POOPER.
WE'RE ALL FRIENDS, AREN'T WE?
DON'T TAKE ME FOR AN IDIOT!!
FRIENDS ?!!
Empty
max
Rahzel-o-meter
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT, AHYWAY?!
OH NO... I'M OUT OF RAHZEL ENERGY. I HAVE NO MORE POWER LEFT IN ME...
AFTER SAYING THAT, I'M SUDDENLY FILLED WITH SADNESS.
SORRY, BUT THAT'S THE WAY I FEEL.
I HOPE EVEN NOW THAT WE CAN GO ON...
...TRAVELING TOGETHER WITH RAHZEL.

I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET MY FRIENDS IN VELLNENE...
...BUT SINCE I DON'T WANT TO BE THERE, I'M TAKING MY TIME.
WELL, I MEAN...
?
...JUST STOPPING BY?
NO, I JUST DON'T LIKE THAT PLACE.
YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FRIENDS?
SINCE I DON'T WANT TO BE THERE LONG, I'M KILLING TIME!!
THAT WAY, IF THEY HAPPEN TO GET THERE BEFORE ME, WE CAN LEAVE AS SOON AS WE MEET UP.

URRRGH! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
I JUST HAPPEN TO BE GOING IN THE SAME DIRECTION, THAT'S ALL.
YOU'RE SO CONCEITED.
THE TEA PARTY'S OVER. GOOO-BYE.
DON'T FOLLOW ME AROUND.
I DON'T NEED THAT KIND OF FAVOR!!
SO, I'M WATCHING OVER YOU, JUST THE SAME. I'M SUCH A GENTLEMAN.
BESIDES, YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE OF DIRECTION WHATSOEVER.
THERE'S NOTHING THERE. WHY'RE YOU GOING?
IT'S ABOUT TWO AND A HALF KILOMETERS TO THE CLOSEST VILLAGE.

ON THE WAY, THE ROAD FORKS TO THE RIGHT...
...BUT DON'T TURN THAT WAY.
...IF YOU KEEP GOING THIS WAY, YOU SHOULD SEE SOME LIGHTS SOON.
NOW...
THAT'S RIGHT.
SO, IS THIS GOOD-BYE?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS WHERE I TURN.
CAN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING NICE EVEN IN FAREWELL?
OR SHOULD I SAY...
THIS IS IT FOR BEING NICE.
NEXT TIME I SEE YOU, I'LL HURT YOU.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, GET STRONG QUICKLY, RAHZEL.


I'M TALKING TO MYSELF.
I CAN'T HELP IT, AND I CAN HARDLY TELL THEM NOW.
WHY DON'T YOU TELL YOUR FRIENDS?
WHY'RE YOU TELLING YOUR TROUBLES TO YOUR ENEMY?

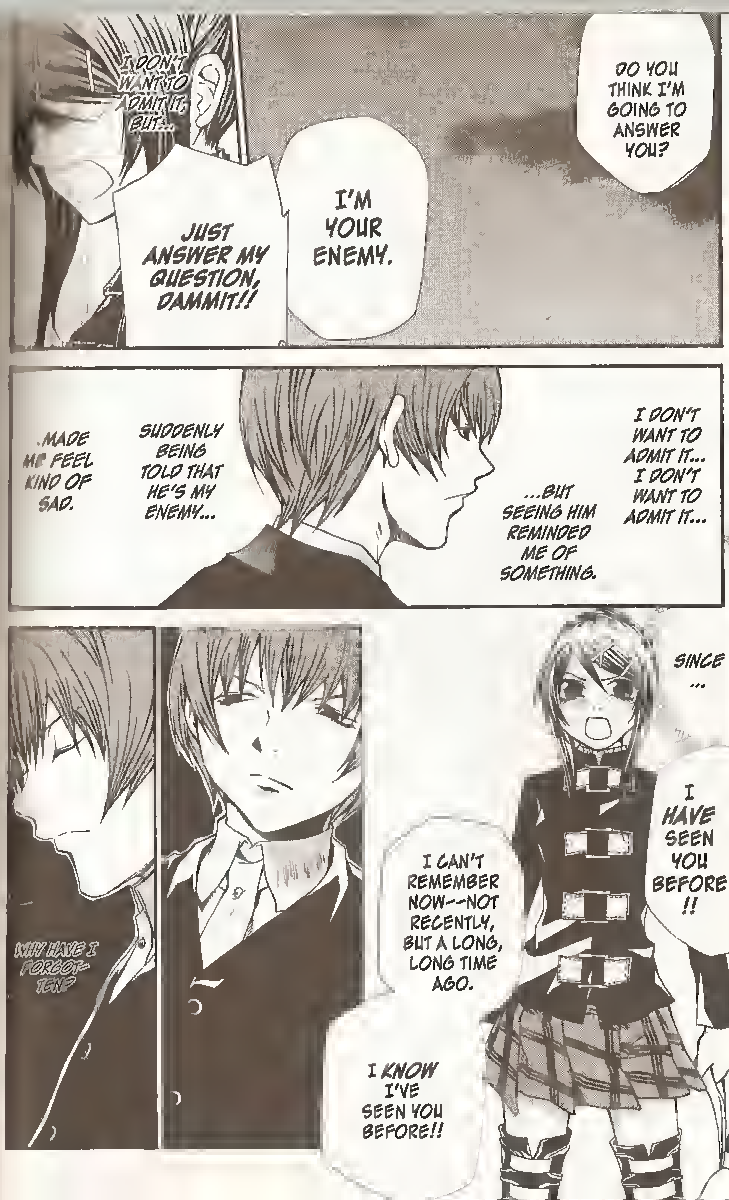

IS THAT SO?
OH, YOU DON'T WANT ANY COMMENTS, SINCE YOU'RE TALKING TO YOURSELF, RIGHT?
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE YOUR FRIENDS?
THERE ARE SOME WEAKNESSES THAT YOU JUST DON'T WANT YOUR FRIENDS TO KNOW ABOUT.

QUITE.
QUITE RIGHT.

I AM YOUR ENEMY.
SINCE YOU'RE MY ENEMY.

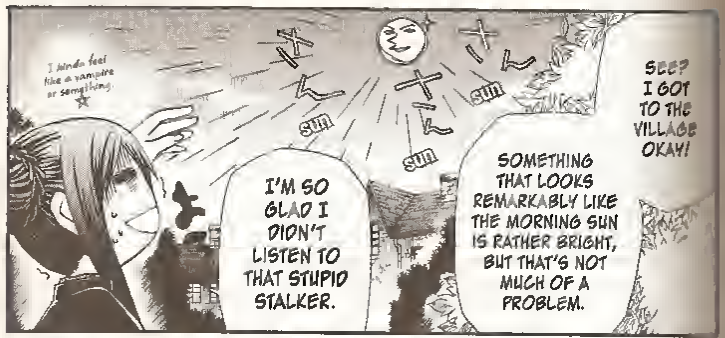
...
RAHZENSHIA ROSE.
DON'T EVADE THE QUES-TION !!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT NAME?!
HOW?
MAYBE BECAUSE I'M YOUR ENEMY?

AH...
IT'S PART OF SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT
SEE YA, RAHZEL.
I won't forgive you if you dare make a right turn, you dumb little hog!!
Remember, keep going straight, you directionless idiot.
Flashback
OKAY !!

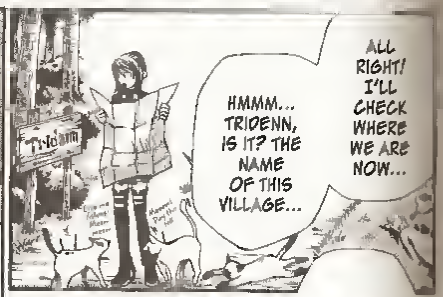

I DON'T WANT TO ADMIT IT, BUT...
JUST ANSWER MY QUESTION, DAMMIT!!
I'M YOUR ENEMY.
DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO ANSWER YOU?
I DON'T WANT TO ADMIT IT... I DON'T WANT TO ADMIT IT...
...BUT SEEING HIM REMINDED ME OF SOMETHING.
SUDDENLY BEING TOLD THAT HE'S MY ENEMY...
..MADE ME FEEL KIND OF SAD.
WHY HAVE I FORGOTTEN?
I CAN'T REMEMBER NOW--NOT RECENTLY, BUT A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.
I KNOW I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE!!
SINCE ...
I HAVE SEEN YOU BEFORE !!

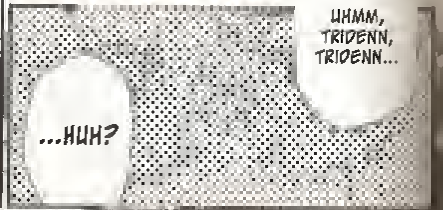
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT SUCH A RARE CHARACTER IS WITH THE TWO OF THEM?!
OF COURSE! VERY MUCH!
IT'S LIKE A DUCK IS PARADING WITH A CLAY POT AND MOUNTAIN DELICACIES!
I WONDER ABOUT THAT EXPRESSION ...
IT DOESN'T INDICATE HER AGE OR APPEARANCE, BUT... HUH? THERE'S A NOTE...
HMMM. IT SEEMS SHE'S A WITCH.
IS SHE PRETTY?!!
I CAN'T TELL. THERE'RE NO PICTURES.
Pout
HOW GREAT! HOW FUN!
SINCE THEY WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF MAKING A NOTE...
DOES SHE INTEREST YOU?
...IT CAN'T JUST BE BENDING SPOONS OR GUESSING THE RIGHT CARD.
*Note: This is like saying there's a turkey walkin' around holding a roasting pan and some stuffing.
AN INTUITION?
YES, INTUITION.
I FEEL LIKE I WILL MEET HER SOON.
I'M SO EXCITED.

NOT EVERYONE HAS AS MUCH FREE TIME AS YOU, MASTER.
IF YOU WANT MORE DETAILED INFORMATION, THEY SAID TO REQUEST IT OFFICIALLY.
THANKS.
AND WHAT'S THIS?
MASTER...
...THE PACKAGE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR IS HERE.
OH, IT'S A WOMAN.
I'LL SHOW IT TO YOU LATER IF YOU WANT.
WHAT IS THAT, MASTER SHOGETSU?
I ASKED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ALZEID'S DAILY LIFE...
...AND IT SEEMS THAT THERE'S A WOMAN TRAVELING WITH HIM.
WHY TAKE IT OUT ON ME?
WOMAN?!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, BEFYLA?!!


I kinda feel like a vampire or something
SUN
SUN
SUN
SUN
I'M SO GLAD I DIDN'T LISTEN TO THAT STUPID STALKER.
SOMETHING THAT LOOKS REMARKABLY LIKE THE MORNING SUN IS RATHER BRIGHT, BUT THAT'S NOT MUCH OF A PROBLEM.
SEE? I GOT TO THE VILLAGE OKAY!

FROM HERE, PROMETHEUS, WHERE ALZEID WENT...
...IS CLOSER THAN YELLNENE


Tridenn
HMMM... TRIDENN, IS IT? THE NAME OF THIS VILLAGE...
ALL RIGHT! I'LL CHECK WHERE WE ARE NOW...

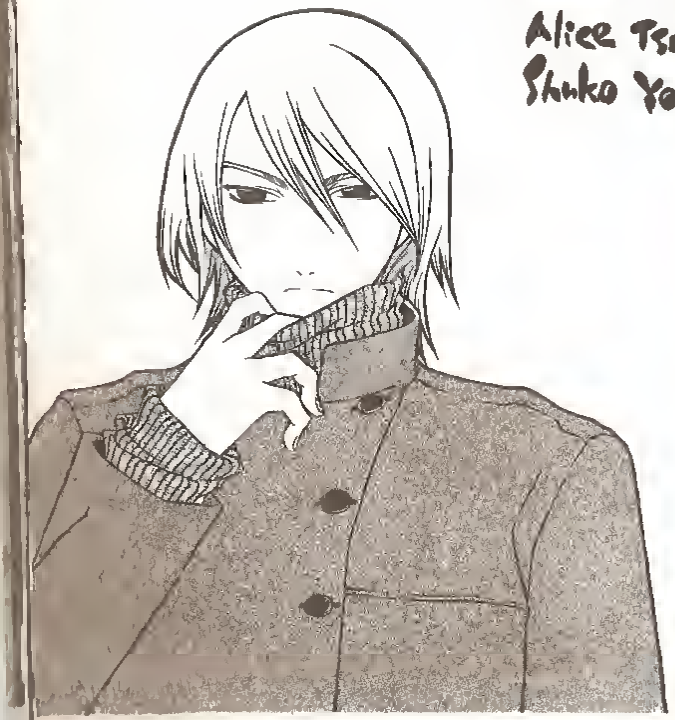

...HUH?
UHMM, TRIDENN, TRIDENN...

I WONDER IF IT'S MIRACULOUSLY TAKING A LONG TIME TO FIX, AND THEY HAVEN'T LEFT YET.
WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO MEET UP THERE?
It's kind of creepy.
...imagining us in flashbacks like this.
By the way, you should stop...
I WONDER IF BAROQUE HE.T'S ARM HAS BEEN REPAIRED YET.

MY INTUITION'S ALWAYS RIGHT.

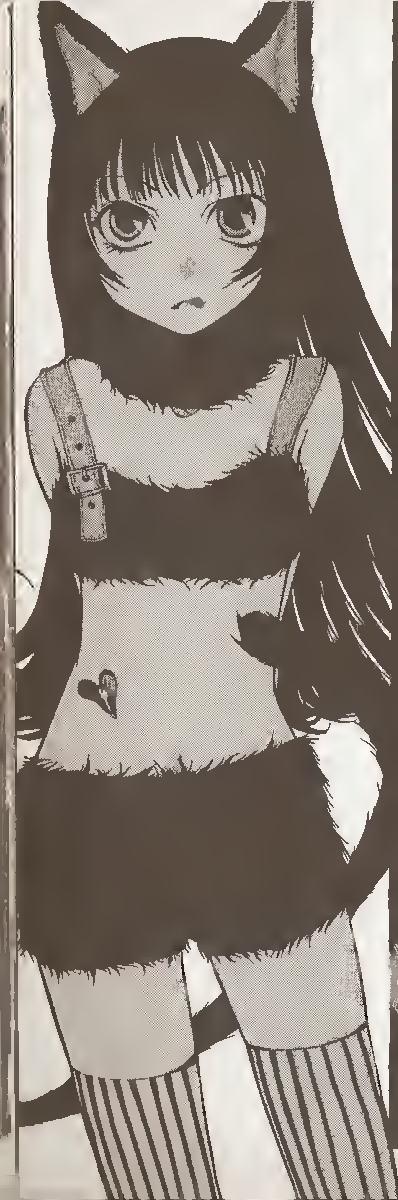
HEH...
HEH HEH HEH.
chirp
chirp

I...
...DID IT!!



editor
Yosuke Sugino

staff
Kaori Komori
Alice Tsukada
Shuko Yonemoto



Chapter 54: Even If We're Fated to Be Scattered About

I think Kiara is a very kind, good child. In the end, he eats what's given to him, brings gifts... Oh, by the way, sorry. In her profile in Volume 1...

I got Rahzel's weight wrong.

At that weight she would be skin and bones! The correct weight is 48 kg, and even that is quite light. Her height and weight are the same as my friend's. He's small, but a real fighter. After years of training, he has only seven percent body fat. There are only three kilograms of fat on his body.

I was finally able to publish the second limited edition calendar as promised. All thirteen illustrations are fresh off the drawing board. They made a CD-ROM, summer too, and I feel like I'm living off the fruits of somebody else's labors in a big way. This is the fifth year of Dazzle. No wonder I'm getting old. Suddenly, I'm older than Alzeid, too.

Thanks to all of you who have cheered me on and supported me. Thank you very much. I love you all. I hope you'll all continue to give me support in the future.

Minari Endoh
遠藤海成

Chapter 48: The Nature of Monsters, the Turf of the Protector

A chapter of Alzeid's mass murder. I drew lots of blood on the ground, but I guess it was difficult to tell what it was before coloring it in. One of my lady assistants said, "What? This is blood? I thought it was cerebral fluid" "Me too" "Me too." They kept making biting comments about it. Even though I'm writing this manga, I actually hate anything that splatters. I've never watched a splatter film. I even get teary-eyed when I cut off the head of a fish. I'm a real chicken--I wish I could rid the world of all roller coasters and horror films.

Chapter 49: And They Quietly Return to Ashes

This is the final chapter of the Ephemeral Proposition (you all call it Rayborn's episode--me too), and the ending scene with the cigarette was the first part I thought of. It took me four years since getting that idea to arrive here, but by this point, I almost didn't care if I ever drew this scene. I don't want Rayborn to be dead. Can't something be done? Hey? I've been thinking about this throughout the series. I've been asking myself why I care so much about an imaginary person. I've been noncommittal for a long time.

Well, in the end, he's still just a cute young boy.

Chapter 50: Passersby, It's Gloomy

It's the fiftieth chapter. How great! Good job, me! Thank you, everyone!! Please keep up the good work!!

Chapter 51: The Town of Prometheos

Since Alzeid looked so bad with black hair, we had a hard time remembering to color his hair. So that we wouldn't forget, I remember writing in stuff like, "color!" (You're right), "black hair!" (Exactly understood), "kind of black!" (What is?), "fake!" (Don't know what's going on). Why was there was always an exclamation point at the end? I want to ask my past self the same question.

Chapter 52: For Knowledge, for Capture

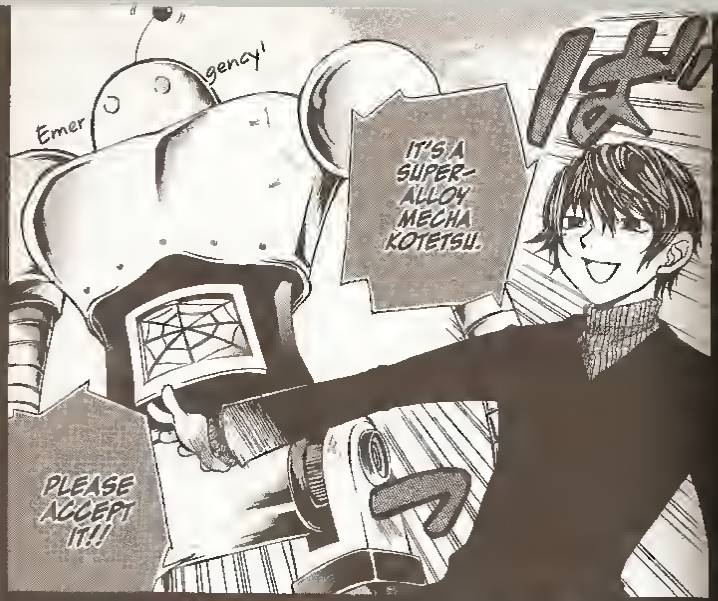
I was so happy that I got to draw lots of Shegetsu. It's love. He's my pet. I was constantly complaining that his hair was so difficult to draw, but he's still my favorite. He's so cute. My coloring assistant kept asking me, "Don't you want to change his hair? Maybe go bold?" But he's still a cutie.

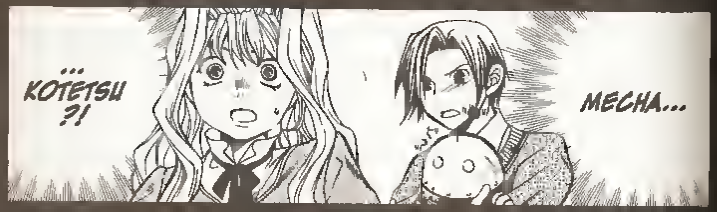
I mean, don't ask the impossible.

Chapter 53: Let's Have a Tea Party

I'm no good at drawing battle scenes. If I were asked what I'm good at, I'd have to say--I'm not good at anything, but battle scenes are the worst. I'm so bad at it that when I submit the rough drafts to my editor, I often omit the action scenes, which really makes no sense at all.

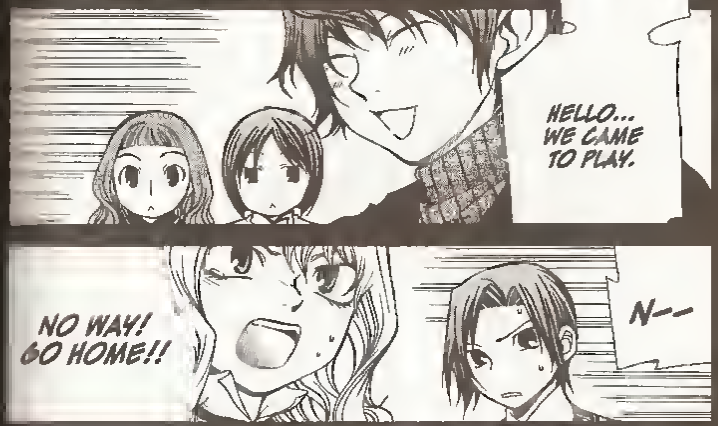
On another note, Alzeid is getting crazy beyond my wildest dreams. In the fourth volume he got saved by a girl, then in the last volume he got carried by a girl, and now he seriously fights a girl with a machine gun. This is a most improbable hero.

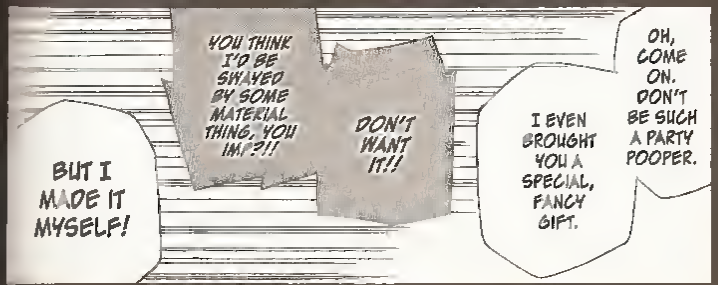

Emergency!
IT'S A SUPER-ALLOY MECHA KOTETSU.
PLEASE ACCEPT IT!!


...KOTETSU?!
MECHA...

I'M SORRY, THE MASTER'S AN IDIOT.
UMM... ERR... THAT IS...
NUCLEAR REACTOR...
WHAT?! ARE YOU TRYING TO OUTDO ME?!
UMM... WELL... MECHA... I MEAN...
IT COMES NICELY EQUIPPED WITH A ROCKET PUNCH & A NUCLEAR REACTOR--STANDARD!!

Bonus Dazzle
BRAAAN-SAAAN.
HELLO... WE CAME TO PLAY.


NO WAY! GO HOME!!
N--


BUT I MADE IT MYSELF!
YOU THINK I'D BE SWAYED BY SOME MATERIAL THING, YOU IMP?!!
DON'T WANT IT!!
I EVEN BROUGHT YOU A SPECIAL, FANCY GIFT.
OH, COME ON. DON'T BE SUCH A PARTY POOPER.

This is the poster from volume one.

In the next Dazzle!

Rahzel and company's journey to Vellnene, the town with blue-eyed, black-haired residents where Alzeid hopes to gather clues about his father's killer, finally reaches its goal--but will he like the answers he finds? And why was Rahzel so reluctant to go there? The truth behind the night Rahzel was abandoned in the woods as a child is finally revealed--and at long last, Rahzel's father shows his face!

This is the original first page of volume one.